



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 8 April 2017



A CHURCH FEDERATION ACADEMY 1ST APRIL 2017

The Pinvin Federation of Church of England Schools is now officially a Federated Academy under the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DOWMAT). The DOWMAT Chief Executive Officer has said, "We wanted to give schools the option to become part of an Academy with very clear Christian values and vision and which puts the child at the centre." As a Federation we will enjoy high levels of autonomy, placing the emphasis on the whole child, alongside high standards of performance. If you would like to know more about DOWMAT, please follow this link: <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2016/11/24/diocese-worcester-multi-academy-trust/> All academy news will be in green on our newsletters as we move forward.

Staffing Fond Farewells

It is that time of year when once again we say some very fond farewells to colleagues who have given much to the work we do. One of the people we say farewell to is Mrs Alison Townsend. She has been a firm fixture in the Middle School for a number of years and is the school librarian. This has been her passion and she has encouraged and supported so many pupils in this role, always championing reading. Another part of her role has been within class support, where she is highly regarded. She will be joining the team at Pershore library and we wish her well as she continues her passion in a different environment. We also say goodbye to Mrs Nikki Thomas at the end of this term at St Nicholas. Mrs Thomas has been supporting a child 1:1 and has been an integral part of our TA team. She has also, as a qualified French teacher, delivered French to some of our classes. She will be missed. We wish her well with the next part of her career journey. Finally, we also congratulate Mrs Tudge who is expecting her second child. She will be going on Maternity leave in due course but will be working through the rest of the academic year with Year 4. After Easter we will begin planning in detail provisional arrangements for the next academic year.

Staffing Changes

We have been busy recruiting new personnel to the Federation and further enhancing our senior team. As we have posted before, we will be seeing some changes in September with Mrs Chatterton taking up the role of Head of School at PFS with responsibility for teaching, learning and assessment across the Federation on a permanent basis and Miss Natalie Rushton as Head of School at SNMS with responsibility for Inclusion across the two schools. Having recruited from within, we have therefore looked at the next tier of our structure. From September we will be having Faculty based Assistant Heads and the team will line up as follows. Mrs Hooper will take responsibility for Languages and the Arts with a strong English remit whilst Miss Newman will have responsibility for Science and Social Sciences including Health and Safety. We are also pleased to have appointed Mr Alan Dodson as an Assistant Head for the Faculty of Mathematics and Computing. Mr Dodson has a huge skills set having previously taught in a village primary with 30 pupils to a Secondary with well over 1000. He has leadership experience in previous posts and brings other skills including being a BBC singer and trained chef! In a final addition to the Federation from 1st May, we have appointed Mrs Lian Smith as an academic based learning mentor. Mrs Smith is very experienced and brings with her excellent knowledge of how pupils learn and high level practical use of study skills. She will be working within the Inclusion Team and across the Federation.

PFS SIAMS Inspection

We are unable to share the outcome yet, as it remains both provisional and confidential but I would like to say that the Church Inspection at Pinvin CE First School was robust and rigorous but fair, accurate and about us learning further. A massive thank you to the pupils first and foremost, parents, governors and staff, in what was a hugely humbling and rewarding experience.

Federation Easter Service

In a first for us as a Federation, every child will be involved with the Easter Service this week at the Abbey in Pershore. This is a time for reflection on the meaning of Easter and also an important time to come together as one.

Reading Ambassadors

Y7 children applied for roles as reading ambassadors and are now working with pupils from Year 1 to 4. All the Year 7 pupils have been trained appropriately and we are already seeing the impact on reading at PFS.



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 8 April 2017



Reflections on the current educational climate

Tudor Grange Academy in Worcestershire admitted year 7s for the first time last September after gaining approval in 2015. This year's planned early intake has ended up being shelved after a very low number of applications. At the time there was a lot of opposition from other schools, the local authority, Redditch MP Karen Lumley, and parents. They all feared the move would create chaos and uncertainty in the town's three-tier system. With any structural reorganisation there has to be an appetite and consensus alongside a neutral body to oversee any changes, if changes are deemed necessary. The reality is that three tier systems, two tier systems and all through schooling can work effectively and deliver high standards and quality if there is the shared aim of wanting the very best for the children in their educational journey and most importantly a cohesive approach. Equally any system, if badly managed and motivated by other factors, can operate in a disjointed manner and can result in a path that is less than cohesive for pupils.

As a Federation, we have seen the benefits of joined up thinking and high levels of collaboration between Pinvin and St Nicholas alongside our Feeder Schools and the High School. We understand better than ever the journey that pupils take with us until the end of Year 7, when they are then ready for the challenges of Clive's team. We are hoping that what now appears common sense prevailing in Redditch, will also continue in the Pershore pyramid. In 2015 there was an overwhelming rejection of a change to the system in Pershore and this has been further supported by the LA declining a local school's more recent move to become Primary. I see no reason why we cannot all strive for the best 3 tier system in the country and place pupil outcomes first. Educationally we know across the Federation that we are driving the new curriculum, using specialist teachers to raise standards in the last Primary year and setting our expectations at the highest level. We also recognise our catchment, largely rural and with some very small feeders, whether at Reception or Year 5, and the importance of getting it right for pupils socially. As a Federation we specialise in the individual child and see our Middle School as an integral part of the early preparation towards GCSE. We will continue to do this moving forward and will always make changes to tweak and refine what we do. This isn't just common sense but the right thing to do for our children. As a Federation we embrace change but there is change for the better and change for change's sake. I hope as a pyramid we can reflect and learn from this.



A Tale of Two Farms

It is lovely to see two respective visits to farms in two different countries in the space of a couple of weeks. The Reception pupils had a visit to a local farm as part of their learning topic and had a great time meeting new arrivals. They are now in awe of some chicks that have hatched as part of a 'Living Eggs' project. In Year 7 the annual visit to the goat farm in France offered something very different, including tasting the goats milk and cheese, which is produced on site. This formed part of their residential to Normandy that has seen them practise their conversational French and learn much about French culture and recent history. Two great experiences.