



Summer 2018

Dear All,

Welcome to our DMAT summer newsletter. Our aim is to provide you with a flavour of the work we have been leading on in the MAT together with some of its early impact.

We have really enjoyed being out and about visiting as many schools as possible during the last term. We acknowledge the hard work that is being done in schools and wish staff, pupils, students and families a relaxing summer break.

Daryll Chapman & Hazel Fox
CEO & Vice CEO

Joint Consultative Council (JCC)

The first JCC meeting was held on 10/7/18. Six union representatives met with Daryll, Hazel and Susanne Kiff (CFO) and Tania Skeaping (Trustee).

The main points of discussion tabled by the Unions centred on:

- Trade Union recognition and regularity of meetings agreed to be termly.
- DFE workload was discussed and agreed to be a standing item.
- Harmonisation of terms and conditions across the MAT was discussed.

The meeting was successful, and we are sure there will continue to be a very healthy relationship of support and challenge between the schools, DMAT and relevant professional Unions.

Support Staff Conference

The first DMAT Support Staff Conference was recently held. 344 cleaners, caretakers, administrators, caterers, teaching assistants, librarians, nursery staff, exam officers and IT technicians from across all of our schools attended the conference at the Manor Hotel, Okehampton.

The main aims of the conference were;

- For support staff to feel valued and for them to understand the importance of their role within the DMAT.
- To give colleagues an opportunity to voice their thoughts about how they would like to see the DMAT develop as we move forwards.
- To gauge support for the purchase of Computershare (staff wellbeing, financial savings etc.)
- To launch an online CPD package that allows staff to undertake certificated Level 2 courses in an array of subjects.
- To allow colleagues to meet Trustees and gain a better understanding of who is doing what job within the Trust.

Staff completed an exit evaluation form which we are presently. Initial verbal feedback from support colleagues has been very positive. The ideas put forward are being collated and will form part of the Trust's Development Plan. We are very keen to hold similar events in the future and offer other opportunities to network and for staff to meet each other from across the DMAT

DMAT School Improvement Update School Improvement Process Agreement

The Executive Headteacher Board have met and agreed to use Key Performance Indicator to prioritise schools for school improvement. Schools will be identified either as Low priority or High priority. There is however a recognition amongst the group that although it is of course essential to raise standards in any school vulnerable to under achievement it is also important that schools which are achieving well to continue to strive for school improvement. The MAT Development Improvement Funding Bid was successful; the funds are being used to directly drive school improvement through the DMAT Improvement Plan.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

Jon Lunn, Neil Swait, an Ofsted inspector who is employed for the equivalent of 2 days a week within the MAT team to support school improvement in the primary sector, Hazel and Daryll are drafting a KPI tool. This is being trialled during this term by entering the new data for this year.

Progress Review Visits

Daryll and Hazel have carried out progress review visits for; Okehampton Primary School, Black Torrington, Bradford, Bridgerule, North Tawton, Boasley Cross, Bridestowe, Lydford, Exbourne, Northlew & Ashbury, and South Tawton. The three secondary schools and Chagford will have progress review visits early in September. The secondary schools will then have the latest GCSE and A-Level data is available and Chagford will be in their new building. Neil Swait and Hazel have undertaken a challenge review of all of the primary schools within the MAT. This will act as a baseline for further visits of support and challenge within the year.

Additional News headlines;

- Daryll, Hazel and Suzanne have worked with the new primary school for Okehampton- St James Primary School. The school is fully staffed and is on track to open in September 2018 on Okehampton Primary School site with 11 Reception aged children. Mrs Suzie Stevens is Head of School and Hazel Fox is Executive Headteacher on a part time basis. It is planned that St James will move to their brand new building on Crediton Rd in January 2019
- Highampton Primary School is joining DMAT in September. The Dartmoor Federation Hub have been working closely with Highampton over the past year and we look forward to welcoming them to our family of schools
- Daryll has attended the Ofsted South West Headteacher reference group meetings feeding into the thinking of the 2019 Ofsted framework development
- We would like to congratulate both Sarah Godbeer who has secured the position of Headteacher for Okehampton Primary School and Andrew Sweeney who takes up the post of Head of School at Holsworthy Community College in September
- To increase and improve communication across all aspects of DMAT two additional administrators have been appointed, Claire Kelly and Rachael Cleave
- We would like to thank all of the staff and community of Chagford Primary School for their support and hard work as they prepare to move into their brand new building for September.
- Thank you very much goes out to Nick Alford for his leadership of North Tawton over the last year. We wish him all the best in his next post. Sunita Chauhan and Sarah Marvin will be Heads of School of North Tawton and South Tawton respectively supported by Hazel Fox as temporary part time Executive Headteacher for the coming academic year

Attendance

The attendance officers and Educational Welfare Officers' from each school met on the 25th June to discuss sharing of good practice across the MAT. We all feel strongly that families should be treated equally and fairly across the MAT when it comes to issues of attendance.

Safeguarding Update from Jane Lake our Director of Safeguarding

Twenty-five MAT staff successfully completed their Level 3 safeguarding training in-house over two days last week – a real achievement bearing in mind it was in temperatures of 30° plus! A saving to schools as in the past this training would have cost a collective £5,000. Jane has also been able to disseminate up to date safeguarding news very quickly across the MAT which has been really useful keeping all schools well informed to aspects of safeguarding which can change very quickly.

Coming soon:

- Pupil Data training for staff, governors and Trustees across the MAT will take place on 18th October at Okehampton College.
- Tavistock College are hosting the inaugural DMAT Ability Games in September. Aimed at youngsters who are involved within the SEN departments within our schools, the games will bring together students from within KS2/3 and they will engage in athletic based activities.
- The Annual Co-operative Netball and Football Tournament. Youngsters in Year 7 from across our schools and also the other Co-operative secondary schools from within Devon are coming together in September to compete.
- We are planning to bring together School Councils to create a MAT wide School Council. This will give an opportunity for student to have a voice within the Trust as well as their individual schools; we will look to implement this as soon as possible.

If any parents/carers are interested in becoming either a governor or Trustee in the future or would like to find out more about the roles, please feel free to contact our Clerk to Trustees Sally Wood swood@dartmoormat.org.uk