

The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust Autumn Term 2018

As we near the end of the year, it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved so far and also to look forward. Throughout this term, my team and I have been visiting all the DoWMAT academies to celebrate good practice, support, advise and, of course, challenge. I have been privileged to see for myself the remarkable work taking place in our classrooms and to appreciate all the amazing opportunities our staff teams are providing for each and every one of our pupils.



I have also met with committed Governors, clearly ambitious for their pupils, who are working closely with their school leaders to continually ensure the focus on providing excellent teaching and learning remains a priority.

This term, the Trust Central Team has increased to meet the needs of our growing number of academies. John McMillan is now with us full-time, co-ordinating and supporting school improvement across the Trust. We have also been able to secure additional support from two of our teachers for one day per week; Neil Hart (Malvern Parish) has met with each of our Maths Subject Leads in turn to look at and develop good practice across the Trust and Natalie Rushton (Pinvin Federation) has been able to provide support for Safeguarding in each of our academies. This support, alongside the high quality professional development opportunities we have been able to source for our staff teams, is enabling our Headteachers to ensure that all their children are being taught by teachers confident in their subject matter and fully up to date with current educational thinking. This work will continue in the New Year; we are already working with our Headteachers and academy partners to shape the future direction of the Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their amazing work on behalf of our children, and to wish all children, families, staff and Governors a happy, restful and festive holiday. See you all again in January.

Regards, *Claire Davies* CEO DoWMAT

Castlemorton CE Primary School, Malvern - Crowle CE First School, Pershore - Madresfield CE Primary School, Malvern - Malvern Parish CE Primary School, Malvern - Netherton CE Primary School, Dudley - Offenham CE First School, Evesham - Powick CE Primary School, Malvern - St. Barnabas CE First and Middle School, Pershore - St. Oswalds CE Primary School, Kidderminster - St. Nicholas CE Middle School, Pershore - Pinvin CE First School, Pershore - The Littletons CE First School, Evesham

The DoWMAT Central Team

Over this year, our Central Team has grown to ensure we are now able to provide a comprehensive level of support for our schools.



Mrs Claire Davies
Chief Executive
Officer



Mr. Russell Dalton
Chief Operating
Officer



Mrs Claire Roberts
Academy
Support
Officer



Mr. John McMillan
School
Improvement
Lead



New Finance Manager of the DoWMAT - Claire Rushton has been appointed as Finance Manager of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT)

Claire Rushton took up her post as the new Finance Manager of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT) on Monday 5th November, this year. Claire joins the DoWMAT from Pershore High School, where she spent 13 years, progressing from School Finance Officer to the role of School Business Manager, when the school formed Avonreach Academy Trust. In her role as School Business Manager, she offered financial support and guidance to all of the schools in the Trust. Before joining Pershore High School in 2005, Claire spent 8 years working in various roles at HSBC. Claire said: "I am thrilled to be working for the DoWMAT and working with all the academies in the Trust. There are many challenges that lie ahead for academies, in particular with funding. We all face these struggles together and I am looking forward to assisting all academies within the DoWMAT over the coming years, to achieve the highest of standards in the most challenging of times." As the DoWMAT's Finance Manager, Claire's key role is to provide day-to-day financial management for the Trust. In addition, she will assist and advise headteachers, School Business Managers and finance staff, within the academies, on all financial management matters. Her role will involve working both in the DoWMAT offices and offsite, in the academies.

"I am always up for a challenge and always willing to 'roll my sleeves up'," continued Claire. "I am very much looking forward to meeting the staff and pupils in the DoWMAT schools over the coming months and supporting wherever I can."

Claire is married to Tom and they have a young daughter, Kate, who keeps them very busy outside of work! In her spare time, Claire loves cooking, listening to a wide variety of music and supports the Worcester Warriors rugby team.



Well done to Marcus from Castlemorton CE Primary School who won the Kings' School Writing Competition with the following thoughtful poem.

War Horse

So we went to France in our teams,
Full of hope and wishful dreams,
Soon to be crushed,
In a rush of death, destruction and war.

For the first time in my existence, I was alone,
With the carnage of war, flesh and bone,
But soon after I galloped and fled,
While I arrived at my inevitable death bed.

I was wracked, broken, mutilated with pain,
My mind shattered with agony again,
It beat my body, bruised my soul,
It left me nothing, lovely or whole.

Shall I traipse back to the beating of the bells?
That I knew and loved so well.
On our placid Devon farm,
In the tranquil, surreal calm.

And now whenever the November sky,
Quivers with a bugle's hoarse sweet cry
Where fractured unkempt tree trunks stand
And shells exploded over a shattered land.

Building Improvement Projects Completed in DoWMAT Academies

Vital building improvement projects took place in several academies in the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT) during the summer break, after DoWMAT successfully secured governmental Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) earlier in 2018.

A total of £703,209 was received by DoWMAT and was used to complete projects including fire safety work, the replacement of structural features and cloakroom refurbishments. The majority of projects were completed over the summer break, with the remaining few currently in the final stages of completion. Thanks to the improvement works, the academies started the new term better equipped and refreshed.

Claire Davies, CEO of DoWMAT, said "The CIF is an annual bidding round, through which academies can apply for essential funding to keep school buildings secure and in good working order. We are determined to do all we can to ensure the buildings, in which our pupils spend such a large part of their school life, are safe, welcoming and conducive to learning. To find out that our bids, on behalf of 7 of our academies, were successful, has been a great delight to us all!"

Sue Parker, headteacher of Malvern Parish CE Primary School, said the works had "completely transformed" their toilets and cloakrooms. "They are now bright, spacious, modern and pleasant for children to use," Sue continued.

Martina Abbott, headteacher of Crowle CE First School, said, "We are delighted with our new windows. They are aesthetically very pleasing and will hopefully help save on heating bills in the coming winter months. The classrooms feel lighter and brighter, and they have made a real impact to our learning environments. We are grateful for the CIF money received, and for all the hard work that has gone in to making this project complete."

DoWMAT hope to be similarly successful in this year's round of applications for funding.

By Laura Farmer

McMillan Coffee Morning St. Barnabas First and Middle School

Well done to the Year 7 pupils at St. Barnabas Middle School for all their hard work planning, preparing and hosting a spectacular fund raising event on the 28th September.

We are delighted to announce all their efforts paid off and In total £634.43 was raised for McMillan cancer support.



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DoWMAT Aims

To Love:

- For pupils to grow and learn in schools where, as children of God, their individual qualities are nurtured to give them fulfilment, self-worth, the skills to contribute to society and confidence in the future
- For staff, accorded dignity and respect, to be enabled to become the very best practitioners that they can be, inspiring and sharing a joy for learning and aspiration
- For academies to be hospitable to diversity, to become the centre of their communities as places of nurture and beacons of educational excellence
- For all learning to be centred in relationships based upon compassion, generosity, truth-telling, forgiveness and reconciliation

To Learn:

- For academies to be resourced and supported so that all pupils within the DoWMAT are enabled to flourish and achieve of their best whatever their starting points
- To ensure staff and governors access high quality professional development so that standards of teaching and learning are excellent
- For academic rigour to be set in the context of rich curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for learning
- For academies to be places where explicit Christian values, collective worship, religious education and opportunities for reflection nurture the spiritual and moral growth of pupils and staff

To Serve

- To fulfil the wider vision of the Church of England, serving our communities through the work of local academies
- To ensure academies are places of safety for pupils and staff where needs are met with dignity and respect
- To offer help and advice to those who lead our academies at all levels so that they are well equipped to face the challenges ahead
- To ensure that Members, Trustees, Local Governing Bodies and Trust staff understand the pressures, challenges and opportunities of education in the 21st century ensuring that those leading and teaching in our academies are resourced and supported