

BDMAT Autumn 2021 Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Message from the CEO



To those pupils and families starting at one of our schools this September, we offer you a very warm welcome to your time at a Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (BDMAT) school. For those of you returning after the summer holiday I hope that you all managed to get some quality rest and time spent with loved ones.

The last two academic years have been dominated by the impact of COVID-19 and schools have looked very different to how we would have liked them to be. On 19th July 2021 the government relaxed its guidance for schools, including ending the routine use of 'bubbles' to isolate pupils from one another. As the new rules came into force at the very end of term, we had no time to see how these would affect schools so please bear with our schools as they adapt to the new ways of working.

COVID-19 is still with us, and the country is expecting an increase in cases over the autumn and winter period as we start to spend more time indoors. Whilst we know that the virus is very rarely harmful to children, we still don't want the children to be poorly at all and therefore our schools will continue to be vigilant to the spread of the virus. In some cases where there are a number of cases at the same time in a school, we may need to reinstate restrictions, including potentially returning to operating in bubbles and phased starts / ends to the day, which is the current government guidance.

We ask parents also to continue to be vigilant and not send their children into school if they have the following symptoms:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of smell and / or taste

Wishing you all a successful year ahead.

Kind regards



Dr Christopher Mansell
Chief Executive Officer

BDMAT continues to grow

We are pleased to announce two new schools that have recently joined our BDMAT family of schools. On 1st July 2021 we were joined by Bentley Heath CofE Primary School in Solihull. Previously, the school had been a stand-alone academy, but the governors of the school decided that the future of the school was as part of a larger Christian MAT; and on 1st September we opened our new secondary school, Christ Church Secondary Academy in Yardley Wood, Birmingham. We now educate over 4,000 pupils in 19 schools across three local authority areas in the West Midlands, making us one of the largest MATs in the area.



Christ Church, Church of England Secondary Academy

New headteachers

We have three new headteachers joining us this academic year. On 1st September 2021, Mr Philip Hynan joined us at St Michael's CofE Primary School (Handsworth) and in January 2022 we will have two other headteachers starting with us: Mrs Natasha Johnson at Woodside CofE Primary School (Grendon) and Mrs Hannah Cook at Bentley Heath CofE Primary School.

Philip Hynan, St Michael's CofE Primary School, Handsworth



Philip was appointed headteacher at St. Michael's, Handsworth in September 2021. Prior to that, he worked at four other schools, located mainly in inner-city Birmingham. Having taught at two other Handsworth schools, Philip is passionate about the community. He is an advocate of the rich culture, heritage and potential of B21 and determined to help the pupils of St. Michael's achieve their full potential.

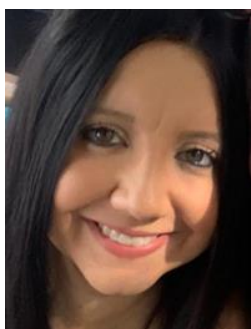
Hannah Cook, Bentley Heath CofE Primary School, Solihull



Hannah is thrilled to have been appointed as Headteacher at Bentley Heath CofE Primary and is looking forward to taking up this post in January 2022. She is passionate about education and feels privileged to have enjoyed a career in teaching for over 12 years. In this time, she has experienced a range of roles, including Deputy Head and SENCO. Hannah has also completed her Master's in Educational Leadership, which was awarded in January 2018.

Hannah truly believes that when children feel happy, safe and secure, they are able to learn best and reach their potential, and that every child, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the very best education possible. Bentley Heath is a truly inclusive school with an emphasis on nurturing and developing the whole child. Hannah is committed to building on Bentley Heath's successes and its Christian ethos, allowing every child to become the very best version of themselves - rooted in Jesus and loving one another.

Natasha Johnson, Woodside CofE Primary School, North Warwickshire



Natasha is excited to be appointed as the new Headteacher at Woodside. For the last 8 years, she has worked as a leader across three very different Staffordshire schools. Having worked in two Church of England schools within Lichfield Diocese, Natasha feels privileged to be appointed for her first Headship working within the Birmingham Diocese and for BDMAT.

Natasha's philosophy is that she hopes to provide an education for every child, that allows them to 'live life in all its fullness' through a curriculum that is inclusive, diverse and focusses on developing the whole child through

her committed leadership. She believes through her vision of 'together in God's love, we inspire and grow', she can achieve this at Woodside.

New catering company appointed – Sodexo

Many of our schools will be moving over to catering being provided by Sodexo from 1st September 2021 with some schools moving across at a future date. Sodexo are a large multi-national company with a wealth of experience in catering.

Your comments about our schools and the MAT Central Team

We are always delighted to hear positive comments about our schools / MAT, and also value feedback on how things can improve. If you have a specific complaint about your child's school, please follow the BDMAT Complaints Policy which can be located at:

<https://bdmatschools.com/documents/complaints-policy/>

As you will see from the policy, there are a number of steps that parents / carers need to take at a school level before the complaint is referred to the BDMAT Central Team.

Contact details for the BDMAT Central Team

Telephone: 0121 426 0403

Email: enquiries@bdat.org.uk

Website: www.bdmatschools.com

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