



Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

Newsletter

Key Vine Dates:

9 th February	Vine Board Meeting Chelmsford
23 rd February	Vine training , become a KS2 moderator 1.00pm Howbridge Junior School
26 th February	Vine Year 6 WM moderation 9.00am Howbridge Junior School
26 th February	Vine Year 5 WM moderation 12.45pm Howbridge Junior School
28 th February	Vine meeting with Trade Unions 2.00 pm Diocese Chelmsford
28 th February	Vine Year 4 WM moderation 9.00am Howbridge Junior School
28 th February	Vine Year 3 WM moderation 12.45pm Howbridge Junior School
2 nd March	Dengie ALB 9.00am St Margaret's Primary School
2 nd March	Tendring ALB 1.30pm Rolph Primary School
5 th March	Colne Valley ALB 9.00am Belchamp St. Paul Primary School
6 th March	Howbridge ALB 10.30am Howbridge Junior School
6 th March	Harlow ALB 1.30pm St. James
9 th March	COO Meeting 9.30am Diocesan Offices Chelmsford
16 th March	Vine Board Meeting Chelmsford
21 st March	Finance User Group Meeting 9.15am Diocesan Offices Chelmsford
22 nd March	GDPR Training for HTs and Office Managers All Day in Chelmsford
24 th April	COO Meeting 9.30am Diocesan Offices Chelmsford

CEO Message

Dear All,

The spring term 2018 has begun with energy, enthusiasm and commitment from staff, teachers and leaders across our Trust. It has been fantastic to see pupils' motivation and excitement as I visit the schools. It is an especially exciting time for St Cedds who are putting the final details together as they prepare for a visit from some children from China. Pupils at St Cedds have been learning Mandarin for a number of years so this will be an opportunity for them to practice.

This term two of our academies have been visited by Ofsted. One report has been published and congratulations go to St James Harlow who have received a 'good' judgement with 'outstanding' for personal development and welfare. This is wonderful news for a school that joined the Vine in special measures. Congratulations to all of the staff at St James but especially those of you who have been on the full journey!

Challenge Partners visits are underway. I have been delighted to receive so many positive reports and read about the progress our academies are making. These provide an opportunity to take stock of the current position and plan for future developments.

Moderation training for every Vine academy is currently underway. This has been funded by the Vine with the aim of having trained moderators in every academy. This will bring obvious advantages as we quality assure the judgements in every year group.

Along with some Vine Headteachers I had the pleasure of attending the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership 'Called Connected Committed' conference in London. We enjoyed talks from HMCI Amanda Spielman who reminded us that schools need support networks and Rt Rev'd Stephen Cottrell reminding us that we were all created by God.

Regards

John

Recruitment:

Please be aware that any vacancies you have can be advertised on the Vine website and links tweeted by the CEO. This is a good way of attracting applications. Send adverts for uploading to ceo@vineschoolstrust.org

New Vine Academies:

We have received applications from 6 more schools and are looking forward to welcoming Two Village, Rivenhall and William Martin Infants and Juniors during the academic year.

Vine Trust Board – LGB Communication:

Please include communication with the Vine Trust Board on all LGB/LB agendas. Please send a copy of the minutes following each meeting to John – many thanks.

Vine Academy News

St Andrew's CofE Primary School



On Thursday 25th January the children representing 60 schools all met to vote for the head boy and girl for the Multi – School Council. A project that was set up to improve awareness and inclusion of those with disabilities. St Andrew's CofE Primary School had three candidates, who wanted to put themselves forward and who gave a speech to a room full of over 150 children and adults. Felix Doran (year 5), from a local Irish traveller family, gave a brilliant address explaining why he will help improve the multi-schools council, so that more young people can share these opportunities and spread the messages of inclusion and understanding. We are delighted that he was elected and his kindness and generosity of spirit has been recognised beyond our school gates. His election means that he will take a key role improving understanding of disability and the need for inclusion throughout our community.

CIF Funding

Vine academies are no longer eligible to bid for CIF funding because we have more than 3,000 pupils. Instead we will receive a formulaic amount for all our capital work (about £300,000 this year based solely on pupil numbers). Therefore we invited bids for this funding from our academies. Thank you to everyone who has submitted a bid, they were of a consistently high standard. We have received bids for urgent work totalling £1,500,000. You will notice that these two amounts do not match and a lot of work is going into evaluating which projects can be funded. We will be in touch to let you know the outcome of your funding bid in due course.

The Vine is currently in the process of commissioning a survey of every school to identify priorities and support future funding bids. We expect the consultants to be appointed soon and they will start arranging appointments to view the school sites once we have finalised the form the surveys will take.

Bryan Lester

St. Cedd's C of E Primary School Plough Sunday Service





On Sunday 7th January, Revd Steven Poss invited pupils from St. Cedd's C of E Primary School and St. Nicholas C of E Primary School to sing hymns at the United Benefice Plough Sunday service at St. Nicholas church in Tillingham.

During the service, the children witnessed local traditions to mark the start of the Harvest season for local farmers, as well as hearing reflections of the farming year and the crops which the farmers hope to grow during the coming season.

Soil was blessed by The Archdeacon of Chelmsford, The Ven Revd Elizabeth Snowdon and they heard prayers from The Agricultural Chaplain, The Revd Janet Nicholls. They enjoyed watching the Maldon Greenjackets Morris Men dance the plough down the nave and perform to a tune called 'Speed the Plough'.

It was a pleasure to be invited to enjoy such a marked occasion in church and the children had a lovely time.

St. Cedd's C of E Primary School Chinese Schoolchildren Visit Bradwell on Sea

On 5th February 31 school children from Beijing and Shanghai will arrive in Bradwell on Sea to spend the week at St. Cedd's Church of England Primary School. The children will work alongside pupils at St. Cedd's, attending normal school lessons as well as taking part in some special activities to celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival. They will share school lunches each day, take part in Forest Schools and generally experience school life in England. Their visit will culminate in a trip to the Rio Cinema in Burnham on Crouch to see Disney Pixar's new film, Coco, followed by a typical English tea party.

Executive Headteacher, Pauline Ward, said, "We are delighted to welcome our Chinese visitors. We are looking forward to new friendships developing and for the children to learn more about each other's cultures."

Head of School, Lyndsey Wood, added, "It will be an exciting week for our pupils, one where they will have the opportunity to share their experiences of school life in England whilst gaining an insight into school life in China. Such an amazing opportunity for us all!"

The visit marks a milestone in St. Cedd's relationship with China. For some years teachers from the school have visited and taught in schools in China and have built friendships with the colleagues they met there. Over the last two years children at St. Cedd's have also been learning Mandarin and have been experiencing aspects of Chinese culture, including calligraphy and paper folding, and this year have had their very own Mandarin teacher based in the village. In June the school was visited by MP John Whittingdale and Ministers from the Chinese Embassy as they visited the local area and met council members.

Chair of the local governance board of St. Cedd's Primary School, Mike Simmonds, said, "This is a fantastic opportunity to build on the past links and the learning of Mandarin. The experience of spending time with children from a different culture will enhance their lives forever! We are all excited by the possibilities this week will provide and hope the visitors will have a wonderful experience with stories to tell back home."

Resource Search

Do you have a good resource or link to a website? Is there a particular programme you think would benefit all Vine academies? If so, let us know! Email a brief outline and review saying why you like it and how you think it helps pupils learn. If others are interested, we will negotiate a Vine price. Abbie Fairbairn from St Andrews has suggested SCARF as an idea. This is from their website, and here is the link:

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/>

SCARF provides the framework for a whole-school approach to improving children's wellbeing and progress, based on five values: safety (S), caring (C), achievement (A), resilience (R) and friendship (F).

Each value is linked to a colour on the scarves worn by Harold the giraffe and his friends, and which everyone in school can wrap around themselves either in reality or in their imaginations, reminding them to put the SCARF values into action.

Ridgewell

Have tables and chairs they would like to exchange or sell. In addition, Belchamp has a piano that needs a new home! If you are interested, please contact Linda Taylor Head@belchamp-st-paul.essex.sch.uk



Small School Network

As part of our school to school support work, we are starting a Small School Network for heads of (you guessed it) small schools. Aimed at schools with around 100 pupils or fewer, we wish to look at the challenges, possibilities, cross-school working, sharing resources and ways in which to support each other. The group will meet in different schools through the year and part of the session will include a walkabout to familiarise yourselves with the schools. During the first meeting, we agreed on areas to consider as well as looking at areas of strength or development that can be shared. The first meeting was held on 26th January 2018 14:00 – 16:00 at Mistley Norman.

Workshops

Monthly leadership workshops will take place through the rest of the year. We would like these to take place in different schools across the Vine with an opportunity for a brief tour of the school so we can become more familiar with each other. The areas for workshops are in the table below – if you would like to host one of the sessions, please let Jackie know along with a date towards the end of each month. Key ones will be the SEF and APP workshops as this will help review, evaluate and develop the Vine formats – it would be good for as many heads as possible to attend these sessions as they will impact on the SEF and APP format for 2018-19
Jackie Williams

Date	Time	Venue	Focus
30/01/2018	1330 - 1500	Great Clacton	PPG – sharing good practice; engaging parents; what makes a difference (January 2018)
February			Attendance and Persistent Absence – what works, tried and trusted; what needs to be developed; effective support; sharing / identifying good practice (February 2018)
March			Year 3 / 4 writing statements – what do we mean; what do they look like in practice; identification, breakdown, sharing understanding (March 2018)

Date	Time	Venue	Focus
April			No more marking – sharing the results of mini pilots, research and development (April 2018)
May			SEF – review and evaluation of format; what makes a good SEF; effective writing / phrasing; purpose (May 2018)
June			Academy Priority Plan – review and evaluation of format; from SEF to APP; what makes a good plan? (June 2018)
July			Cultural / diversity – how can we enhance experiences for pupils from largely white British backgrounds who have a poor understanding of their own, and others', cultures? (July 2018)

