



Department for Schools and Colleges

Go-Governance - a newsletter for Governors and Clerks

Issue 17 - July 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the final edition of the *Go-Governance* newsletter of this school year.

1) Thank You - plus!

At this time of year, we normally like to register our sincere thanks to all our governors & clerks for their hard work and service during the previous year. This is of course always very merited but never more so than now, in what must have been one of the most challenging year's that our governing bodies have ever had to deal with. We are very conscious of the extra pressure and strain the Covid19 situation has placed on our governing bodies and are extremely appreciative for the way governors have risen to the challenge to help the children and staff at all our schools at this most difficult of times - so may we offer an extra sincere 'thank-you' to all of you. Bishop Declan, as indicated by his letter sent to all governing bodies, also expresses his thanks



Whilst we're very aware that the situation is constantly changing and that there will be more challenges ahead in the coming new school year, we sincerely hope that this summer, more than any other, you're all able to enjoy a well-earned rest.

2) - Diocesan Training

Can I remind all governors that Bishop Declan expects all his appointees to attend diocesan governor training to support them in undertaking their duties. Due to the Covid19 situation, we are currently unable to hold our training sessions in person. However, thanks to modern technology, we shall be holding 'virtual' training sessions that you can attend remotely, from your own home.



The dates of the next sessions are:

- Foundation Governor Refresher (for those who have served at least one term of office) - 24 September 2020
- Foundation Governor Induction (for those in their first term of office) - 19 November 2020.

Whilst primarily aimed at Foundation Governors, we would encourage all governors to attend these sessions.

- Clerks to Governors (for new and experienced Clerks) - 6 October 2020

Each session is from 6.30- 8.00pm. You will need access to Microsoft Teams in order to attend any session. Please contact Graham Tiley to book a place but as Graham works only in term time, please email him via graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com before the end of this term or early in the autumn term.

3) DfE funding for NGA Training

As previously mentioned, the National Governance Association provides training programmes to help develop Chairs and Clerks that attracts DfE funding. They hope governing bodies will take the opportunity of registering for it whilst it is still available, by joining their new Summer 2020 cohort. You can access from between £350-£2000 worth of development for your board if you apply online and join the 'Summer 2020'. For further details, please see <https://www.nga.org.uk/LeadingGovernance.aspx>

4) Annual Training Return

As you may be aware, the Diocese usually requires Clerks to submit by 30 June, the 'Clerks Training Template' detailing all the training undertaken by Clerks and Governors, during the last school year.

Please may I confirm, that as mentioned in my email to Clerks of 12 June, due to the extra responsibilities being placed on schools because of the Covid19 situation, it was decided to drop the requirement to submit a return this year. You're welcome to send one in if you've already collated your data, but if not, please do not go to the trouble of asking governors for details of their training etc. So, this is one job you can remove from your task list.

5) - Records

If any Foundation Governors have indicated that they will be standing down before their term of office has expired, please can I remind Clerks to notify me by completing the diocesan Resignation Form, which is available from our website <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance> (under the Recruitment tab). This ensures that my records are kept up to date. Can I also remind clerks to academies, to amend the school's Company House records.

Please also update me as soon as possible if there are any changes to the Chair of Governor post.

6) - DfE Publications

The DfE have produced an updated **Academies** Financial Handbook

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ef0a9a5d3bf7f6c03ed25b7/Academies_Financial_Handbook_2020.pdf

and have also updated the governance handbook

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788234/governance_handbook_2019.pdf



7) - DBS clearance

You may recall from the April edition of *Go-Governance* that the main feature of the new DBS protocol, is that DBS clearance must be obtained before the Foundation Governor commences their term of office. However, due to the coronavirus situation, we temporarily suspended this requirement, to enable governors to start their role. It is currently intended that schools fully reopen in September. Assuming this does happen, please may we just restate, that any Foundation Governor (both new and those undertaking another term of office) who have been unable to complete their DBS clearance check, must do so within 6 weeks of their school reopening. If this is not undertaken, then unfortunately a suspension may have to be introduced.



8) - Prayer to St. Corona in a Time of Epidemic

Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic.

Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.



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Once again, please may I thank you for all that you've done during this most difficult of school years' and wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

As I'm still working from home, please email or call my mobile number below, if you need to contact me.

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