

Department for Schools and Colleges

Go-Governance - a newsletter for Governors, Directors and Clerks

Issue 27 - July 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the final edition of *Go-Governance* of the 2021-22 school year.

1) Papal Blessings!

Many thanks to all who attend the special Mass of thanksgiving and/or sent messages of thanks and best wishes to Colleen Collett, our former Director of Schools & Colleges, on her retirement in April.

Colleen was invited to attend the Primary Leavers Mass at Clifton Cathedral on Thursday 23 June and was very surprised to be presented by Bishop Declan, with a certificate confirming a special blessing from his holiness Pope Francis, in recognition of her career in Catholic education.

For the same reason, the identical award was also bestowed on Ann Fowler, our former Deputy Director. Ann retired in 2020 just as the Corona virus was spreading and so we were regrettably unable to give her the send-off she deserved.

I'm sure you would agree that both Colleen (pictured below) and Ann are both very deserving recipients of their Papal recognition.



2) Welcome Mary

As notified to Heads and Chairs in June by Lyn Murray, Chief Operating Officer, I can confirm that the Diocese has completed the recruitment process for a new Diocesan Director of Schools & Colleges and so Mary Cox will be joining the Diocese on 1 September 2022. Mary is a senior education leader and comes with a very broad range of school experience from all age academies, mainstream, alternative and special needs environments, as well as most recently a Multi Academy Trust. Her experience includes coaching and developing senior and middle leaders, together with supporting school improvement in standards, curriculum and governance. She is looking forward to working with you all and will be in contact when she starts her new role at the beginning of the new academic year.

3) Booklet of Courses for 2022-23

The new Diocesan Schools & Colleges Department 'Booklet of Courses' <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/CPD-booklet-2022-2023.pdf> for the 2022-23 school year is now available. The booklet lists the training sessions & courses, special Masses, retreats, conferences, partnership meetings etc. etc. available for governors/directors, clerks, staff

and pupils. Please read it to see what would be appropriate for yourself and your school. Of particular relevance to Governors and Clerks, are the following sessions:

- **Induction** - for any governor who has not previously attended a Diocesan Induction session. 3 x dates available - see page 26
- **Refresher** - for all experienced governors. 2 x dates available - see page 27
- **Admissions** - for anyone involved in considering admissions applications. 1 x date only - see page 28
- **Religious Education Link Governor - What are your responsibilities?** For all RE Link Governors. 3 x sessions in September - see page 25
- **Clerk to Governors** - for new & experienced Clerks/Governance Professionals - 2 x dates available - see page 29.

Just complete the online booking form

<https://schools.cliftodiocese.com/courses> to reserve a place on any of the sessions.

4) DfE School Governance Update

The July edition of the DfE School Governance Update

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-july-2022> is now available. It includes several items of interest, including the government's White Paper "*Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child*", updated guidance on "*External reviews of governance guidance*" and "*Flexible working training for school leaders.*" Please take time to read it to help keep you updated on developments in Education.

5) New MATs

Both of our new Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) that opened in March are now established and fully operational. If you would like to start the coming school year by having the opportunity of using your skills and experience at a different level, then please consider becoming a MAT Director at either the **Cardinal Newman** <https://www.newmancatholictrust.com/> or **Dunstan** <https://www.thedcet.com/> Catholic Educational Trusts. For further information

and details of how to apply, visit <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance> and just click on the 'Recruitment' tab.

6) End of one year - start of a new one

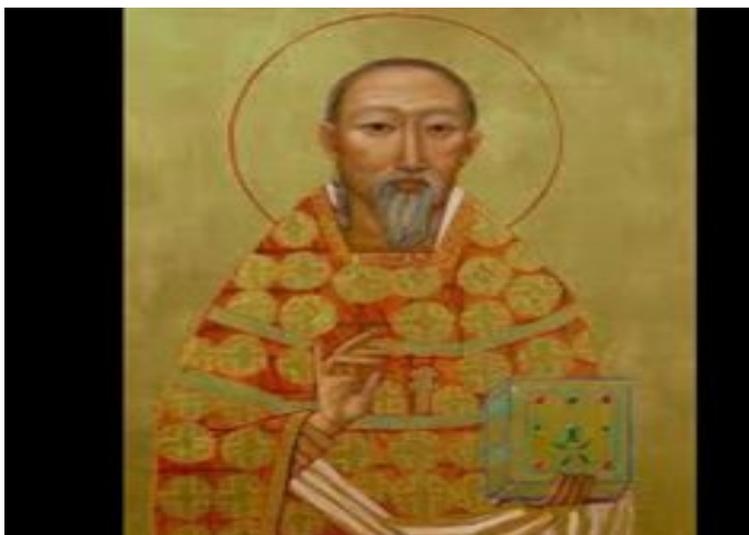
The end of a school year and the start of new one, often sees changes occurring to the personnel on governing bodies. Could I please just remind clerks of the following points, in readiness of the new school year:

- i) Please inform me as soon as you are aware of any Foundation Governor who is not standing for another term of office or is just standing down at the end of the year, so that I can ensure our records are up to date.
- ii) It is not compulsory for the appointment of the Chair to be considered every year at a VA maintained school (unless otherwise stated within a governing body's own arrangements), although it is good practice and many schools do so. The Chair does not have to be a Foundation Governor. However, as stated in their constitutional documents, all **academies** must at their first meeting of the year, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and these must both be a Foundation Governor (unless exceptionally agreed otherwise by the academy Members).
- iii) Where there is a change of the Chair of Governors or Clerk to Governors, please inform me of the new Chair or Clerk's name and school email address, so I can update our contacts list.
- iv) At your first meeting of the new year, it is appropriate for all governors of any category to sign a 'Code of Conduct' which sets out the purpose of their governing body and describes the appropriate relationship between individual governors, the whole governing body and the leadership team of the school. This is in order to protect all members and mitigate against any possible difficulties that could occur within governing bodies. Schools should use the Code of Conduct provided by the Catholic Education Service as it provides protection specifically for Catholic schools and is available at:
<http://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/governance/item/1003629-codes-of-conduct-for-governors-and-directors>

7) A Prayer to Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions - martyr saints of China - Feast Day 9 July

O righteous band of martyrs united by faith in Christ and His Church in a nation of religious oppression: children and grandparents, workers and teachers, lay and ordained, native and foreign-born....all as one you gave your lives, led by your convictions -pray the Word of the Lord come to a land so cold to conversion, to the love and worship of Jesus, all men's Saviour. Pray the Holy Spirit fall like purging and redeeming fire upon every soul in the country where you so honourably died; pray His power spread and bring renewal upon the face of all the earth. Amen.

Prayer Source: Prayers to the Saints by James H. Kurt, AuthorHouse, 10/17/2007



8) Have a great summer!

On behalf of Bishop Declan and everyone in the Schools & Colleges Department, please may I thank you for all your hard work and dedication during the last school year. I hope you get the opportunity for some well-deserved rest over the summer, and I look forward to working with you all in 2022-23.

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