

# BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

SPRING 2021



*A great education has the power to transform lives.*

# WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



I am pleased to be able to say that we have made really good progress across the Trust since September.

This is due to the fantastic attitude of all our schools and their staff who have worked together so positively to build our new community of schools. Unbelievably, this has been achieved during one of the most difficult phases schools have had to face.

Everyone in the Trust team is so grateful to our schools for what they have achieved and their continuing support. We are now a Trust of 14 schools, with a further 8 Primary schools from across our region due to join this academic year. So, by Summer will be over half way to bringing all our schools into Bishop Bewick, the most Northerly Trust within

the Diocese, stretching from the Tweed to the Tyne. Further details on this is provided later in the newsletter.

From the outset of our venture, we said that no matter what stage schools join BBCET, all would be welcome to shape our collective future. So, we established a number of working parties attended by volunteers from across schools to explore key areas such as Culture and Ethos, Governance, School Improvement, I.T. and Finance. These working parties have therefore been very busy in the first half of this academic year, sharing and developing ideas for the future.

As a result of the work of the Culture and Ethos group, we now have a mission statement that captures the values we share across all schools. In this newsletter, I will focus on two in particular.

*We have to be greater than the sum of our parts*

A key reason our Trust is being formed is to achieve this. We are no longer islands working individually for our own schools, staff and pupils. By harnessing the strengths we have collectively, we have so much more capacity to support and improve the

education of all the children within Bishop Bewick. We will work together through a process of solidarity, subsidiarity and finally transparency. We work together but schools will retain their individuality.

*A great education has the power to transform lives and through this the wider communities individuals serve*

We share in the original mission of Catholic education – to provide excellent education for our children and to be drivers for social justice in our schools.

Therefore, we will do this for all our children, regardless of their personal circumstances. Where children are held back by vulnerability or disadvantage we will empower them to overcome any barriers they have to fulfilling their potential.

All five goals of our mission have been embedded into our Trust prayer and crest, both of which are below. We will focus on the remaining goals in the next newsletter.

*Anita Bath*

## OUR TRUST PRAYER - ALMIGHTY GOD

May Christ be at the centre and the root of everything we do,

May all of us know our worth and use it to serve our communities,

May the uniqueness of each person be encouraged so that we discover and reach our full potential,

May our ethos and spirituality be built on gospel values,

May our schools be a place of safety, discovery, learning, achievement, belonging and love,

May we be instruments and vessels of the living God,

May God be our source, our anchor and guide,

**In Jesus' name, we pray.  
Amen**



*Our Crest is based upon the original Bishop Bewick coat of arms.*

At the top of our crest is the Bishop's Mitre, a reminder of our namesake Bishop Bewick, one of the first four Bishops in our region.

Above the shield rests St Cuthbert's cross, a symbol of our Diocesan Saint. He spent much time among the people ministering to their spiritual needs, carrying out missionary work, devoted to this region as we are committed to our children and their families.

On the shield we have three bears, each bear representing one of our regions. Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. Traditionally bears represent strength, protection, wisdom and courage which reflect our Trust's key mission, that we are stronger when we work together.

We will support all our schools, recognising that we all have times of need. We will approach our transformative work with courage together.

# Welcome to the Trust

A very warm welcome to the schools that are already in Bishop Bewick Trust and to those who will join us this academic year.

### 1st June 2020

Sacred Heart Catholic High School

St Mary's Catholic High School

St Benet Biscop Catholic High School

Sacred Heart Primary School

St Michael's Primary School - Elswick

St Peter & Pauls Catholic Primary Academy

### 1st December 2020

St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School, Newcastle

St Thomas More Catholic High School, North Shields

Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Primary School Newcastle

St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Walbottle

St. Lawrence's Catholic Primary School, Byker

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Blyth

St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Bedlington

### 1st April – 1st May 2021

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle

St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Westerhope

St. George's Catholic Primary School, Bells Close

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Fenham

St. Alban's Catholic Primary School Newcastle

St. Charles' Catholic Primary School, Gosforth

St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Alnwick

St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Ashington

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, North Shields

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Shields

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cullercoats

Star of the Sea Catholic VA Primary, Whitley Bay

Newcastle Schools

Northumberland Schools

North Tyneside Schools



# Message from the Chair of Directors



*A name alone does not gather community, develop trust or offer support. It is in our honest, personal interactions with each other that we will unlock our potential to develop meaning.*

Over time, we are hoping that our five common goals are lived out, not least our goal to provide a great education for all our children so they can reach their potential.

Each of us, as a member of this single faculty of education is asked to see through the eyes of every school, and in this way we embody these values.

We have a long way to go and

have made an amazing start. No doubt we'll build on this success day by day as we grow together. Let us be honest and open in all our interactions and let's see if we can bring to life a Trust that is more than a name and adds true meaning to everyone involved.

On behalf of all of our Directors, I offer you a very warm welcome to 2021. Hopefully, we'll see school life return to normal this year and in the meantime, please stay safe.

*Dave Harrison*

## WELCOME TO OUR TRUST

*Behind the scenes there are many good people working together to establish and grow Bishop Bewick.*

In this newsletter we will focus on the Executive Team and our Directors.



We took the decision last year to keep our offices within a school. Our Trust base is on the first floor of the 6th Form building at Sacred Heart Catholic High School. This houses the Executive team and administration team for Bishop Bewick as well as a small Board room for

when face-to-face meetings can take place.

In addition, our Teacher Training facilities mean we have access to larger venues for meetings where we can bring all our school leaders together.

COVID restrictions have meant that we have taken up a small office area within what was St Mary's College for the finance team. This is an ideal location as it is almost the same venue and a very short walk to the main Trust centre.



**Joanne Smith**  
SCITT Manager and BBCET Admin Manager



**Jo Douthwaite**  
BBCET Administrator

## OUR DIRECTORS

*The role of Directors is crucial to success of any Trust.*

Whereas Members can be viewed as the Guardians of the constitution and responsible for the rules by which a Trust operates, the Directors play a vital role in setting the strategic direction of a Trust.

It's a very responsible post and one that

\*We currently have one vacancy. Directors can be contacted through the Trust Admin Team [Jo.Douthwaite@shhs.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Douthwaite@shhs.org.uk)

Directors have to apply for, completing a skills audit that is passed to the Diocesan Board of Education for final approval.

We are very fortunate to have a very dedicated group of Directors who bring a wide range of skills and experience to Bishop Bewick, including finance, risk management, HR, law and working in other large Trusts.

Some of our Directors have been with the Trust since 2017 when it started life as Sacred Heart Partnership of schools. A number have joined us since, as the Trust has grown, bringing with them the key skills needed for such a large organisation.

Directors attend all Trust Board meetings as well as participating in committees.

**David Harrison**  
Chair of Directors

**Gill Hardy**  
Vice-Chair of Directors

**Fr Bill Agley**

**Veronica Goatman**

**Professor Kath McCourt**

**Juliet Scullion**

**Dr Janice Gorchach**

**Matthew McGrady**

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

The team have officially been working together for Bishop Bewick since September 2020.



**Anita Bath**  
Chief Executive



**Dave Douglass**  
Chief Operating Officer



**John Foster**  
Director of Partnerships



**Michael Cousins**  
Trust Data



**Michael Ashton-Thompson**  
Trust IT



# Working Together to improve our Schools

*A key part of the work of our Trust is to bring schools together to share and embed the very best practice in schools.*

One of the ways this is happening now is by leaders coming together in key areas to develop and share their curriculum.

Across our five secondary schools, this work has already started in English, Maths, Science, Pastoral and Sixth Form.

Primary headteachers are also

exploring mechanisms for working together through a process of peer review and a pilot project is now underway.

Hopefully, it will be able to run in the summer term. We are also looking at ways by which we can ensure the curriculum and teaching of a range of subjects enables a smooth transition from KS2 to KS3.

In this newsletter, we will focus on the work of a project to improve Geography teaching in KS2.

## DEVELOPING GEOGRAPHY IN KS2

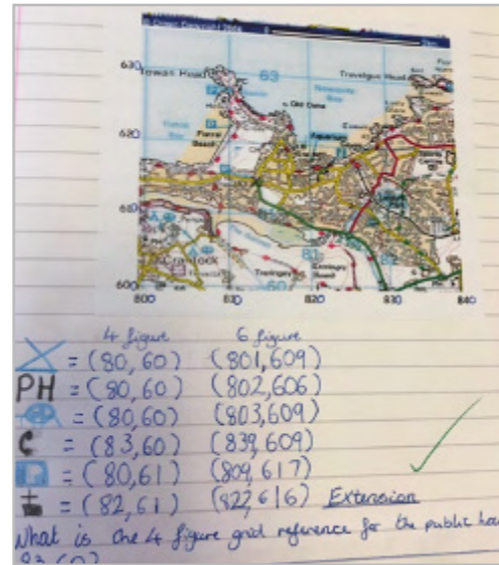
*In January 2019 one of the Trust's secondary schools Sacred Heart was successful in an application to run a Department for Education Curriculum Fund Project.*

This fund had the aim of developing knowledge rich resources to reduce unnecessary workload for Teachers and support whole class teaching and

teacher led instruction.

The Curriculum Fund Project ran with 11 schools over 18 months and a programme of 'oven ready' Geography lessons was designed with approximately 120 hours of learning being made available to participating schools.

CPD was delivered to over 110 staff and approximately 1500 pupils participated in lessons using the



resources that had been developed.

What made this project so successful was how teachers from across primary and secondary education came together to design a programme of teaching that would really prepare and challenge pupils in KS2 so that their knowledge and understanding of Geography in primary would seamlessly lead on to their learning in Secondary school.

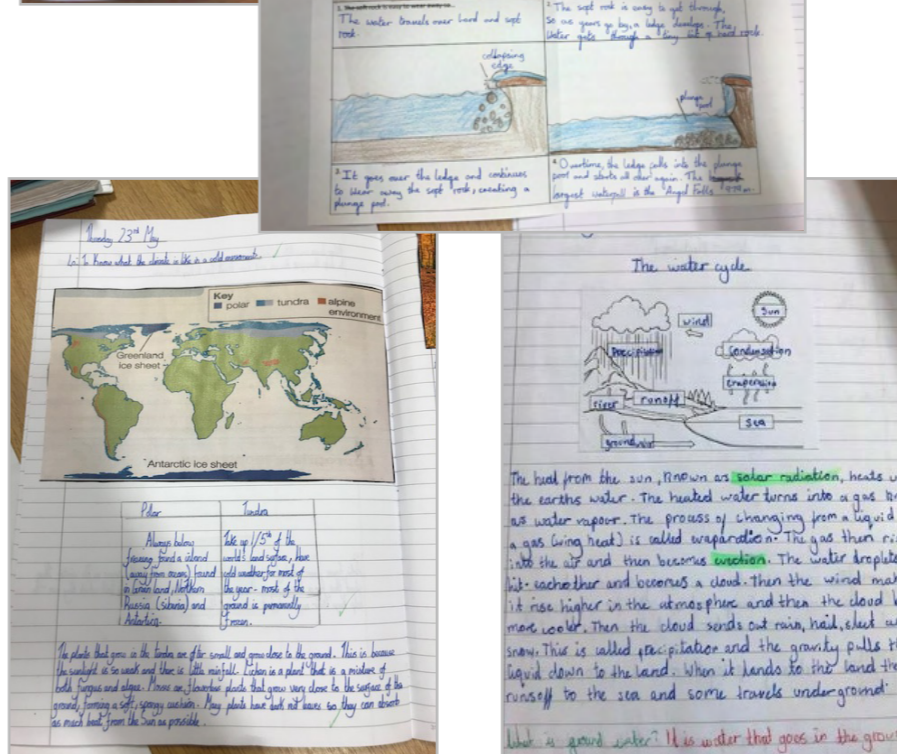
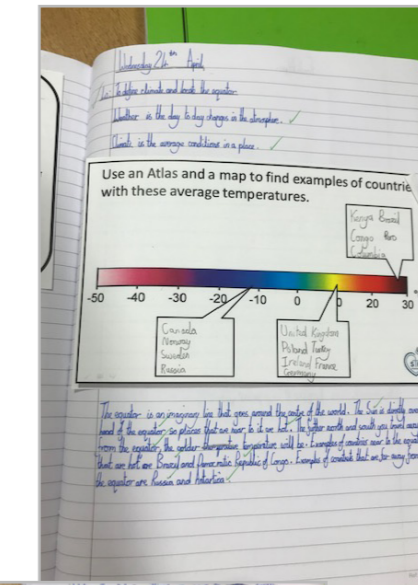
## RESULTS FROM THE GEOGRAPHY PROJECT

Feedback from both teachers and pupils was extremely positive. The learning demonstrated by pupils was excellent. One teacher commented that,

*"Pupil use of geographical terms is impressive in each class, pupils are using language confidently and are aware that it is geographical. When asked to tell me some Geography words they had learnt, Year 6 were able to use 'pyroclastic flow' and 'economic effects' and provide sound definitions".*

Staff said that they feel more confident in teaching Geography, both in their understanding of what constitutes an outstanding Geography lesson but also in what progress in Geography looks like.

The impact on Teacher workload was extremely positive. When asked "What impact did the resources have on the time you spend planning for learning?" 91% responded that the resources had 'reduced workload'. 61% reported that their workload had been reduced 'significantly'.



## EACH MODULE OF LEARNING INCLUDED:

### 1. Learning Journey:

This is the medium-term plan for this unit of work and is intended to be used with pupils to signpost their learning.

### 2. Learning Outcomes:

This shows learning objectives for each lesson/section of the learning journey and outlines what pupils are expected to do in order to meet the learning standard.

### 3. Key Words:

This is a list of subject specific terminology that pupils will need to be able to access this learning. This is not exhaustive, but outlines ten key words that are important within the unit.

### 4. Teaching Resources:

This contains packages of teaching resources that can be used in a flexible way to help deliver the learning.

It is not intended that every activity within the package is used, but Teachers pick and choose activities they think would work well with their students.

They are pitched at middle ability students but include suggestions for scaffolding and stretch and challenge to allow differentiation and mastery.

### 5. Assessment:

There are two assessments - a creative formative assessment, with instructions for pupils and marking guidance, as well as a summative end of topic test.

### 6. Teacher Support materials:

A support guide for non-Geography specialists in key aspects of the topic and areas where they might need more information.

# Teacher Training at Bishop Bewick through Sacred Heart Newcastle SCITT

*Recruiting and retaining the very best teachers is becoming an increasingly difficult task across the country and in the North East.*

We are very fortunate to be able to improve this situation as we can offer Teacher Training to schools in the Trust and our wider region. Sacred Heart Newcastle SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) is a registered ITT provider and so far, the SCITT has trained over 400 new teachers, the majority have left us to become teachers in North East schools, including our own partner schools.

We are always looking for individuals who believe passionately in the power of education to transform lives.

We know great teachers can have a significant impact on the life chances of our students. In our training programme you will work

and learn from some of the best teachers in the business.

There are over 30 Primary and Secondary schools in our partnership, located across Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside and nearby towns within County Durham and Northumberland.

As part of the SCITT programme, trainee teachers will receive Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education from Newcastle University.

We are always looking for potential teachers and so if you know of any graduate or third year undergraduate who is considering teaching, primary and secondary, we offer an excellent quality training programme.

Please contact Joanne Smith  
[Joanne.Smith@shhs.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.Smith@shhs.org.uk)



## TRAINING RESOURCES

### GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP FOR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS & GOVERNORS

Following on from some successful workshops held last term, there will be two further sessions to help governors prepare for moving into an Academy Trust. These sessions are open to any governors who wish to attend, but we particularly recommend them for governors from schools who are joining this year.

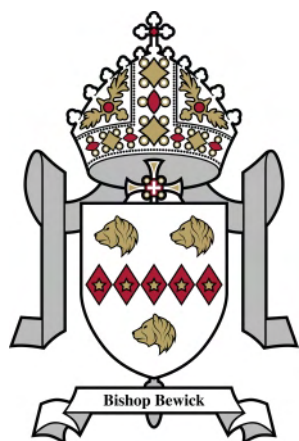
#### **Session 1:**

Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 16:00 hrs

#### **Session 2:**

Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 16:00 hrs

To register for training please contact our Trust Admin team [Jo.Douthwaite@shhs.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Douthwaite@shhs.org.uk)



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