



## NEWSLETTER

### VA SCHOOLS – AUTUMN TERM 2006

#### To: Head Teachers and Governors

Welcome back after your well deserved summer holiday. I am pleased to send you information on a number of building related topics, and invite feedback and suggestions for future newsletters.

#### Diocesan Financial Assistance for Building Works

The Director's letter last term gave details of a temporary suspension in the provision of grant aid from Diocesan funds to help our Aided Schools with the cost of building works. It is hoped that funds will be available again shortly, to be channeled towards those in greatest need. The past pattern has been to provide 1% of building costs; is this the best, or could there be a better way of using the money? The Church Schools Committee will be looking at drafting a new policy at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please may we have any comments from Heads and Governors by then?

#### LCVAP Supported Works for 2007/8

Meetings with our LEA partners are to take place after half term and we invite schools to make requests for funding. Unsuccessful bids from previous years are not automatically rolled forward, and must therefore be re submitted. Types of work previously considered include replacement windows, electrical re wires, major roof repairs, security works; anything, in fact, which is beyond the funding ability of your DFC allocation. Schools considering submitting requests for works must contact our consultants, YMD Boon Ltd, on 01858 464482, or Stephen Challenger by 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

#### Building Issues - Foundation Governors Workshop

A useful and interesting workshop was held in Hereford in July, to discuss changes to DfES funding of Devolved Formula Capital. We are repeating this session at the Bishop Mascall Centre, Ludlow, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006, at 7.30 pm. Topics to be covered include building management and responsibilities, audit requirements, managing school houses and an open question and answer session. Please bring this meeting to the attention of those Governors responsible for building matters. Additional items for the agenda should be notified to S Challenger by 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

#### Membership of the DBE Church Schools Committee

The retirement of Jack Cornell, Head of St Mary's School, Bridgnorth, has created a vacancy on the above committee, particularly representing the north of the Diocese. The Committee meets three times a year and deals with the prioritization of LCVAP schemes, plus other building matters. Meetings take place at 16.00, either in Hereford or Ludlow. Anyone interested in joining us, please telephone Peter Rowland (Chair) on 01746 712636.

**Stephen Challenger**  
Property Secretary  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2006