

Briefing Paper for Essex Primary Headteachers: November 2018

Essex School Meals Service

Where we are now:

- All LA Schools currently supported, have received an email briefly detailing the offer, service level and pricing for school meals service support from April 2019
- The email has an automatic response facility into our managed inbox school.meals@essex.gov.uk where we are collating replies of intent on a central data base.
- The information was highlighted on the Education newsletter and explained how the schools would receive the information.
- A deadline of November 2nd has been given to schools to respond by – it is clear that the response is only an indication of intent, the results of which will form the basis of the structure of the service in the future.
- Information on the open Info link site has been updated and the offer pricing details is in the process of being put on the secure Infolink site.
- A final reminder email is planned for after half term as the cut-off date approaches

Responses so far:

We have had replies from 80% of LA schools that we currently support (168 out of 211 schools). Of the 80% the responses are as follows:

- 81% are intending to take up the service based upon the prices given
- 10% are undecided (a variety of reasons – meeting Governors, looking for discounts etc)
- 9% are not going to be taking up the service – various reasons, mostly around budget/value for money.

Activity:

The support managers are actively meeting heads/finance managers etc to answer questions and enable decisions and are in regular contact to ensure we have as many responses back by 2 November. Where decisions are being made after this date – Governor meetings etc, we are being flexible, although there will have to be a final cut off soon after to enable decisions to be made and the future planned.

Feedback and evidence so far would indicate that the service is priced right and is of interest and need to schools – which is great news!

Small Schools Conference

A Small Schools Conference has been arranged for 20th November 2018 at Hamptons, Chelmsford for headteachers and governor representatives to meet with LA and Diocese and review the Small Schools Strategy, options for sustainability and 'future proofing'. At this conference, funded by Essex School Governors Association (ESGA), we will be exploring federation and structural solutions with case studies from Essex and other LAs. Guest speakers include: Bishop Stephen Cottrell and Julie Winyard HMI. Workshops include National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership, headteachers of federated schools, and Governance – Embracing Change.

FFT data workshops for school leaders.

Each school is invited to apply for a free place at a FFT data training organised by the LA as part of the annual subscription to promote the full use of the features and functionality of the latest developments to strengthen data analytical expertise for school leaders.

We aim to show all attendees the significant benefits which make the annual subscription irresistible including student explorer, collaborate and the range of self-evaluation reports for groups of children as well as subjects for each phase.

The FFT events for school leaders will focus on two key challenges facing schools – **the impact of a new baseline assessment on school accountability** and the ongoing issue of **effective tracking and measurement of pupil progress** including a **first look at FFT's new interactive progress tracking tool**.

Further details of the content of each session and application process will be emailed to all schools and also advertised in Education Essex. We have spaces for between 25-40 participants at each session and will be allocated on a first come basis.

28th Nov 1.30pm or 3.45pm (West – Passmores School, Harlow)

29th Nov 1.30pm or 3.45pm (NE – Braiswick School, Colchester)

4th Dec 1.30pm or 3.45pm (South- Lee Chapel School, Basildon)

5th Dec 1.30pm or 3.45pm (Mid – Hamptons Social Club, Chelmsford)

2019 Essex Teaching Awards

The nominations for the 2019 Essex Teaching Awards are now open and close on **Friday 16 November 2018**. Entries are accepted from anyone in respect to individuals working or volunteering within maintained schools and academies in the Essex. We encourage you all to take the time to nominate a member or members of your teams in what is a wonderful celebration of the talent and commitment so many people make across the education estate to support the lives and progress of so many children and young people.

The event will take place at Hylands House on Tuesday 5th February 2019.

The categories for this year's awards are:

- New teacher of the year
- Teaching assistant of the year
- Primary teacher of the year
- Secondary teacher of the year
- Special school teacher of the year
- Primary headteacher of the year
- Secondary headteacher of the year
- Governing body of the year
- School team of the year
- Childminder of the year
- Early years and childcare practitioner of the year (in the PVI sector) – *new this year*
- Lifetime achievement
- Student choice

For more information, email teaching.awards@essex.gov.uk