



*In this week's edition...*

<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO &amp; UPDATES</b>	<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>TASK</b>
Admissions Policies 2023-24	Headteachers & SBMs	Action
Safeguarding Children in Education Self Evaluation Audit Tool for North Somerset Schools	Headteachers	Action
School Leaders' Presentation and Articles on curriculum and pedagogy	Headteachers	Info
FREE NPQs for all teachers	Headteachers	Info
Staffing in the Central Team	All	Info
LSP Business Breakfast	All	Info
New Scam alert	Headteachers & SBMs	Info
<b>COVID UPDATES</b>	<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>TASK</b>
Negative PCR tests following positive LFDs	Headteachers & SBMs	Action
New temporary COVID-19 measures mean for early year settings, and schools	Headteachers & SBMs	Info
Arrangements for COVID-19 testing during the holidays and on return in January for all educational and childcare settings in England	Headteachers & SBMs	Action
<b>FINANCE UPDATES</b>	<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>TASK</b>
Monthly Accruals and Prepayments	SBMs	Info
<b>FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE</b>	All	Info
Governance Update	Chairs & Clerks	Info



## Admissions Policies 2023-24

The admissions policies for 2023/24 have been amended in liaison with the two local authorities. The draft policies are [here](#) for consultation from 1 December 2021 to 19 January 2022.

The change this year is:

- For North Somerset primary schools, the criterion in the policy relating to 2016/17 introduction of first geographical area is now removed from the policy.

Please can you ensure the [consultation document](#), together with a link to the LSP policies above, are added to your school website. Please can you email [jnorris@lsp.org.uk](mailto:jnorris@lsp.org.uk) to confirm this has been done.

## Safeguarding Children in Education Self Evaluation Audit Tool for North Somerset Schools

Thank you to those schools who have sent a copy of their S175 audit to [jnorris@lsp.org.uk](mailto:jnorris@lsp.org.uk). Please can the North Somerset schools who have not done so, please send a copy of the completed audit (due at NSC on 5 November) to Jane so the Trust has a copy. Please can we request this by 8 December 2021.

## School Leaders' Presentation and Articles on curriculum and pedagogy

Click [here](#) to view the presentation from last Wednesday's meeting.

It was good to see School Leaders at our meeting on Wednesday. Below is the link to Amanda Spielman's speech and also to some other interesting articles on curriculum and pedagogy.

Amanda Spielman's talk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/amanda-spielman-at-the-2021-schools-academies-show>

A piece from Tom Sherrington:

<https://teacherhead.com/2020/02/08/7-variables-between-within-schools-where-are-you-on-each-scale/?s=03>

An interesting think piece about designing and delivering the primary curriculum to which we will return to in our January meeting.

<https://thinkingflexibly.com/2021/11/15/curriculum-the-forth-bridge-and-gluesticks/>

Sharon

## FREE NPQs for all teachers

The DfE reformed suite of NPQs have been launched successfully and registration for a February start is now open. Our LSP programmes are with Education Development Trust for Primary and Ambition for Secondary. Our delivery will be through the Five Counties Alliance.

- **NPQ for Leading Teaching (NPQLT)** - designed for those who have responsibilities for leading teaching in a subject, year group, key stage or phase. **Cost: Usually £875 - Now free**
  - **NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC)** - designed for those who have responsibilities with behaviour and pupil wellbeing. **Cost: Usually £875 - Now free**
  - **NPQ for Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD)** - designed for those with responsibilities for leading the development of other teachers in their school **Cost: Usually £835 - Now free**
- These will provide CPD for teachers who want to make their classroom teaching the best it can be, whether or not they move into school leadership.

This is in addition to new and reformed leadership NPQs:

- **NPQ for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)** - for those who are, or aspiring to be a senior leader, with cross-school responsibilities, such as a member of the SLT. **Cost: Usually £1,120 - Now free**
- **NPQ for Headship (NPQH)** - for those who are, or aspiring to be a headteacher, head of school or principal, with responsibility for leading a school. **Cost: Usually £1,885 - Now free**
- **NPQ for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)** for those who are, or aspiring to be an executive headteacher or CEO with responsibility for leading multiple schools. **Cost: Usually £3,995 - Now free**

If you are interested you can find further details on the Five Counties Alliance website

<https://fivecountiesalliance.co.uk/national-professional-qualifications/>

### Application process for LSP staff:

1. Participant (not schools) apply using the [DfE portal](#) (NB. this triggers the start of the process and is not the application in itself; applicants will need their Teacher reference number) At the same time as applying on this portal participants should seek Head Teacher support.
2. Your school must complete this [FCTSHA form](#) selecting the lead provider (Primary: EdDev and Secondary: Ambition) and NPQs you have signed up to.
3. Once participants have completed these steps, the lead provider (Primary: EdDev and Secondary: Ambition) will send participants an application form to complete.
4. Once this application form is completed FCTSHA see that they can offer the place and then participants will receive another email from the provider (Primary: EdDev and Secondary: Ambition) asking you to accept the place.

### Final deadlines for applications:

Primary colleagues EdDev: **Monday 17th January**

Secondary colleagues Ambition: **Tuesday 18th January**

It is recommended that you begin the process well ahead of this deadline.

There are bursaries available from LSP to support staff attendance at training. Please email [igeorge@lsp.org.uk](mailto:igeorge@lsp.org.uk) for an application form.

## Staffing in the Central Team

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Charlotte Trewin as our interim HR Advisor, who will join the HR team on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Charlotte will be replacing Konstantinos and is an experienced and qualified HR professional. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Charlotte to the HR team.

*Tania*



## LSP Business Breakfast



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to our LSP Business Breakfast last Wednesday. It was a great success, with over 100 attendees.

It was insightful and highly topical to get an update on the future of energy and the economic benefit to the South West from Hinkley Point C, expertly delivered by Tim McCoy, Head of Communications at EDF.

Our student speakers did a fantastic job of updating us on the action schools are taking to become carbon neutral by 2035. Many thanks to Aspens for providing a delicious breakfast buffet and to Backwell School for hosting us.

To view the presentation, click [here](#).

## New Scam alert

The Safeguarding team at North Somerset Council have advised of a new scam going around schools of a person claiming to be from the police. The scammer in this incident called himself Paul Taylor, but could go by any name.

The scammer speaks about the school's contribution to their crime prevention magazine and says that you are entitled to a discount on your invoice.

The advice is to not hand out any personal or payment information over the phone or via any letter and to check anyone claiming to be a police officer.

If you do receive a call, please report to Action Fraud [Reporting fraud and cyber crime | Action Fraud](#) who will then forward it on to the police.

## Negative PCR tests following positive LFDs

A number of colleagues have reported that they are beginning to see further examples of negative PCR tests following positive LFDs. Following the testing error earlier in the year this is clearly of concern. We have contacted the public health teams at North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset Councils and they have both stated that they aren't aware of any issues at present and that PCR testing still remains highly accurate. However, they are keen to hear of any such examples and are raising the issue at their regional network meeting this week to see if this is something other areas are seeing.

Bath and North East Somerset have asked schools to email [Public\\_Health@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:Public_Health@BATHNES.GOV.UK) with the following information for any pupils/staff who have tested positive via LFD and then negative via PCR:

Age	Any COVID-19 Symptoms? Cough, loss of taste/smell, high temp	Any other symptoms? e.g. runny nose, feeling unwell, headache	If YES to symptoms When did these start?	Have they had contact with a confirmed case?	If YES to contact. Was this a household contact, school contact, or other type of contact?	SEND status if applicable	Has this person previously has COVID and when?	COVID-19 Vaccination status (if applicable)

North Somerset Council are also keen to hear of any examples of this. They would like to know if the individuals have known links to outbreaks or household clusters of Covid or whether they are more sporadic cases? They are also keen to know if repeat LFDs, after being “cleared” by a PCR, are remaining positive?

## What the new temporary COVID-19 measures mean for early years settings, and schools

The following guidance has been issued by the Government:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/11/28/what-the-new-temporary-covid-19-measures-mean-for-early-year-settings-out-of-school-settings-schools-colleges-and-universities/>

The new measures are in line with our current risk assessments and, in the main, there are no further changes to our control measures required. The exception to this is that close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of their age or vaccination status. You do not need to amend and consult on your risk assessment for this change.

The Governments new measures are temporary and precautionary and will be reviewed in three weeks and our current risk assessments will be in place until at least the end of term 2.

A summary of the Government's advice is provided below:

## Face coverings

From now, the Government are strongly advising that face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

## Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

## Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place - which means that close contacts should take PCR tests but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. **The exception is for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days.**

## Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccine, please visit: Book or manage a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)).

## International visits and trips

Individuals arriving in England must follow the red list rules.

South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe moved onto the red list at 12.00pm Friday 26 November.

Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia were added to the red list at 4am Sunday 28 November.

Schools will want to consider whether to go ahead with planned international educational visits at this time, recognising the risk of disruption to education resulting from the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK.

## Good hygiene

People should continue to follow the basic rules of good hygiene. This will help to protect individuals and others from COVID-19. These are:

- \* washing your hands
- \* cleaning your surroundings
- \* covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

More information on our guidance for educational and childcare settings is available on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk): Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19) - [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).

Please continue to follow the flowchart previously issued for Christmas events. There is no requirement to cancel such events as long as they can be held safely or unless the local health team advice is to cancel.



### Arrangements for COVID-19 testing during the holidays and on return in January for all educational and childcare settings in England

The DfE would like all secondary schools to prepare to test their pupils once on-site on return in January, stressing that testing continues to play a vital role in keeping COVID-19 out of schools. Tests, PPE and funding to support your workforce will be provided as before. After this test on return, pupils should continue to test in line with government guidelines.

The DfE have been asked whether secondary schools may stagger the return of pupils in the first week in January to help with the logistics of setting up Asymptomatic Test Sites. The DfE has responded to this query to say that a staggered return is entirely reasonable and they intend to confirm this in writing.

To enable testing on return in January, you will need to order sufficient test kits by Tuesday 30 November.

Please check your test kit stock levels and make an order of test kits so that staff are able to test over the holiday period, and for the first week of January, using home test kits. Secondary schools will also need to order ATS kits and sufficient home test kits to ensure secondary pupils can continue to test in line with government guidelines. Please complete this [stock-take form](#) and ensure your stock is in date. Please specify when your setting closes for the holidays in the 'delivery instructions' when placing your order to ensure you receive your delivery.

Ofsted has confirmed that secondary schools will not be inspected, unless there are urgent concerns, during the first week of schools' return in January.

Updated guidance is available on the [document sharing platform](#) to support schools to prepare for asymptomatic testing when you return in January, including (for secondary schools) an asymptomatic testing site.

All staff and secondary school students should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. This means that they should test if they will be in a high-risk situation that day, and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

## FINANCE UPDATES

### Monthly Accruals and Prepayments

Thank you for returning your schedule request templates for monthly accruals and prepayments. Although we have been successfully processing monthly accruals and prepayments for income streams, monthly recharges for core services and all other recharges between the Central Team and schools since September, we have identified a problem with processing some of the items identified by schools because we do not currently close periods on PSF. It is likely that we will have to make some changes on PSF, but this will require some careful planning to ensure that we are fully aware of the impact of any changes that we make, both for schools and for the Central Team. We had hoped that we would be in a position to implement the necessary changes by the end of November, but this has not been possible.

We will let you know as soon as possible of the timescale of any changes and therefore when your monthly journals will be processed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Governance Update

### SOURCE: THE KEY:

- Schools told to hold off renewing their MIS contracts. DfE urging schools to delay signing a 3 year contract extension with SIMS while it investigates the matter. (Schools Week)
- 62% of staff say the pandemic has contributed to poor mental health in 2021; up from 33% in 2020.
- Pleas for action ramps up after “damaging” Ofsted visits (Tes)
- National Leaders of Education programme delayed until September 2022 (Schools Week)

### SOURCE: NGA:

- Updated guidance available on Engaging with Parents and Carers: [guidance](#)
- Education Endowment Foundation: published second edition of Improving Literacy in KS2 report: [report, Improving Literacy in Key Stage 2.](#)
- Charity Groundwork has found 66% of pupils said they did not learn enough about climate change from their mainstream education. They also said that “they did not think they are taken seriously enough in decision making”. NB: Importance of Pupil Voice.
- Teacher Wellbeing Index 2021: workload one of the most cited reasons for symptoms of poor mental health.
- Updated guidance available: Engaging with Parents and Carers, joint publication with Parentkind. [guidance](#)
- New “expert attendance advisers” will begin working with LA’s and MATs to reduce pupil absence, drawing on their experience as ex Heads, ex LA leaders and best practice.
- New “levelling up” plans and an inquiry to improve student outcomes:
  - inquiry into how effectively post -16 qualifications prepare young people for work
  - universities will be required to improve outcomes for Disadvantaged pupils by driving up education standards in school and colleges eg via tutoring.
- Guidance for MAT Trustees/ Directors, to review their Central Leadership team structure at least annually.

### SOURCE: DfE:

- Secondary schools to prepare to test all pupils for Covid after Christmas Holidays. Mask wearing re-introduced for all staff and visitors in communal areas and when moving about in school; pupils too from Yr 7 and upwards.

*John Purcell*