

# News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 11: 22 November 2022



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## Introduction

We have had a run of very positive inspections and now is a moment to take stock. Ofsted Inspectors at Yatton Infants, West Leigh Infants, High Down Infants and Wraxall CE Primary School have offered very positive and constructive feedback on the quality of leadership, curriculum and teaching at the schools. The [West Leigh report](#) has just been published and is one of the most characterful and vivid of the current crop - do have a look. I am also very pleased to congratulate colleagues at Yatton CE Junior School and Winford CE Primary School on their very positive SIAMS feedback following their inspections last week. Overall, a very positive picture of high-quality leadership and governance, skilled teaching and comprehensive safeguarding and pastoral care is building up about our schools. The credit goes to our Heads in particular who always tackle challenges, no matter how difficult, as soon as they emerge. I am probably one of the few Trust CEOs who would love Ofsted to come and do a MAT Summary Evaluation on us. Bring it on!

The other bit of (relatively) good news is that after all the briefing to the contrary, the Chancellor did agree additional spending for schools in the Autumn Statement. You will see Louise's note on this later in the bulletin. We still face some austere challenges and nobody should think that higher wages and pension costs will not erode our budgets, but it is not quite as bad as we had feared. I am thinking that perhaps this gives us a bit more time to make changes more strategically.

We have a Heads meeting face to face in Nailsea tomorrow. It will be great to see everyone.

Best wishes,

Gary

## Autumn Statement

As you may know, the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Statement that schools will get an extra £2.3 billion in 2023-24 and 2024-25. However, we understand that this will actually be a £2 billion increase after the removal of compensation for employer costs of the Health and Social Care Levy is taken into account.

We have no details yet on how this will be distributed to schools, but have completed a rough estimate. If all funding factors were increased consistently, we estimate that you could add 3.62% to the funding you've already estimated for 2023-24 and add 3.52% to the funding that you have already estimated for 2024-25. As soon as we have further information, we will share it with you.

We would, however, like you to treat the increase detailed above with some caution if you wish to factor it into your budget planning.

The teachers' pension scheme is being revalued from April 2024. Last time it was revalued, employers' contributions increased by over 7% and the Government provided a grant to fund it. We are a little concerned that the Government will say that any increase to employers' contribution rates has to be covered by the additional funding they have announced. Unfortunately, we won't know about it until nearer the time.

We have also built in future pay awards of 3% in 2023-24 and 2% in 2024-25 and an increase in employers contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme of 2% from April 2023. All of these assumptions could be too low, and we anticipate no further funding, beyond the £2m recently announced, to cover any further increases.

We will undertake some further modelling and provide schools with a more prudent funding increase to incorporate as you start to plan for next year and beyond.

## Welcome to Chris Hills

Chris Hills has now started with us as our Governance Professional and is now the point of contact for Governors and Clerks. Chris's email address is [chills@lsp.org.uk](mailto:chills@lsp.org.uk). Please feel free to contact him.



## Audit feedback

Bishop Fleming provided feedback to us on Friday from the audit that they have recently completed. They gave lots of positive feedback about the preparation for the audit and accounts preparation undertaken by both schools and the Central Team. They praised School Business Managers for the diligence and ownership that you have taken in the completion of your workbooks. We are delighted to pass on this positive feedback along with our own thanks for all of your hard work. We will be reviewing the process in order to make further improvements next year and would welcome your feedback too.

## LSP Business Breakfast Invitation

We would like to invite you to our upcoming Lighthouse Schools Business Breakfast, taking place on Friday 2 December at Gordano School.

We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker is Mark Kelly, Managing Director of Bristol Sport and Ashton Gate Ltd. Keen to share his knowledge and experience, the talk provides a fascinating insight into Mark's journey, including how he built an international brand at Bristol Sport and how this ambitious vision was realised.

We will also hear a Trust update from our Chief Executive, Gary Lewis, and students at our secondary schools will reflect on the impact of the pandemic and the opportunities created.



This FREE event includes a complimentary buffet breakfast and is a great opportunity to meet local business leaders and some of our outstanding Sixth Form students. The full details of the breakfast are below:

### Event details:

Friday 2 December 2022

7.30am-9.15am

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, BS20 7QR

**Parking available on-site**

To book your place, please reply to [cgiordmaine@lsp.org.uk](mailto:cgiordmaine@lsp.org.uk)