

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 12: 29 November 2022



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Introduction

You will see below the very positive feedback that we have had from our auditors about the quality of preparation and work delivered by our finance teams in schools and in the central team. I am so grateful for the hard work and professional skills of our excellent colleagues who have worked on the audit. I am also very proud that we have taken a further step towards maturity as a Trust. Great job!

With five schools in the process of joining our Trust I have been reliving some of the workload and complexity of the academy conversion process. It is a reminder to me to give a shout out to the Heads and Business Managers in schools leading that work. Having had a few easier ones in recent years, I had been lulled into a false sense of security, but we have all been grappling with the arcana of glebe land and non-transferable leases. A special shout out to Sarah Joskey and team at Burrington, who will be able to write the manual on academy conversions for C of E primary schools. It will be worth it!

Thanks too, to everyone who has been working with Debbie Coker on developing our SEND capacity to provide additional places and expertise across our LAs. This has been our top strategic priority and I am pleased that we are also 'walking the walk' in our commitments.

I'm almost going to get away without mentioning Ofsted this week. The only special email that we have had has been the publication of the Wraxall report and that was a very pleasant read.

As ever,
Gary

Audit feedback

The Audit and Risk Committee met last night to receive feedback on the audit and annual accounts process. The committee would like to echo all of the positives that we shared in last week's bulletin and to say a huge thank you to staff in schools and the Central Team for all of your hard work and dedication. They commented on the significant improvements that have been made and the assurance that it provides them with. Thank you again to everyone involved.

North Somerset Consultation on funding for 2023-24

North Somerset Council has launched a [consultation on funding for the 2023-24 financial year](#). The consultation ends on the 23rd December. We will produce a draft response to the consultation and share it with schools in next week's bulletin. We would welcome your input into our Trust response by 16th December but also encourage you to respond separately if you would like to.

The most significant area of the consultation is in relation to the transfer of funding from the schools block to the high needs block. The Council are consulting on options to increase the contribution from the schools block to the high needs block as part of the DSG management plan with the DfE. The consultation document provides information on the financial impact of each of their options. As part of the DSG management plan the Council are hoping for a significant funding allocation from the Government to pay off the deficit in the high needs block. Whilst any increase in transfer from the schools block to the high needs block will reduce the funding that schools will receive, it should be noted that the DfE are recommending this increase and are likely to approve it with, or without support from schools and the strategic schools forum.

We are also anticipating a consultation on top up funding arrangements in the new calendar year. This will include some significant proposals including only being able to access top up funding for children with an EHCP. We will, of course, share this consultation as soon as we receive it and help to inform and coordinate your comments.

Pay Scales

The pay scales following the recent pay awards have been added to the Pay Policy 2022, which is now available on Foldr [here](#).

LSP Business Breakfast Invitation

A reminder that our upcoming Lighthouse Schools Business Breakfast is 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



Reporting Data Breaches - Procedure Change

As the Information Commissioners Office need to be notified of reportable breaches within 72 hours, to make the process more efficient please in future report any breaches direct to iWest using email: i-west@bathnes.gov.uk and copy in the LSP email: dpo@lsp.org.uk

The reporting form remains the same and can be found in Foldr [here](#).

Excel Training

As part of our contract with Scomis, we receive 6 free training days per year. We have had requests for Excel training, please find [here](#) a link to the Excel courses that Scomis run.

If you have staff that you think would benefit from any of these courses, please send their names, the course that they would like to attend and their working days back to bwatts@lsp.org.uk by Friday 2nd December and we will organise accordingly.

We will also be arranging a SIMS new starters course in the near future, so please also send expressions of interest for that.

Glen Cleaning

Litmus have now completed the reconciliation of the account and credit notes have been sent to schools. Any outstanding invoices and credit notes can now be paid.

FINANCE UPDATES

New Role within the Central Finance Team - Please share with appropriate staff in your school

The Central Team is looking to recruit a full-time School Finance Support Officer at JG7 on a permanent basis, term time only plus 5 Inset days plus 20 additional days to be worked during the school holidays. (FTE salary £31,099 - £33,820 and actual salary £29,582 - £32,171 pa). This new role within the team is required to support the Central Team in delivering a school finance support service to a growing number of schools, as well as the delivery of high-level finance Service Level Agreements to some of our schools as part of the work on the Small Schools Strategy.

The role is required as soon as possible and would suit someone already working in one of our schools at a transactional finance level who is looking for a development opportunity. Training and support will be given. The job description is available to download [here](#) and please apply using the application form. Please contact Sue Warneford-Thomson at swarnefordthomson@lsp.org.uk if you would like further information, but completed applications should be sent to hr@lsp.org.uk

The closing date is 12 noon on 8th December and interviews will take place in the afternoon of 13th December.



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