

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 16: 10 January 2023



In this week's edition...

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Appointments in the Finance Team	Heads & SBMs	Action
Updated Policies	Heads & SBMs	Info
Attendance Updates	Heads & SBMs	Info
One West Website	SBMs	Action
Temporary Office Manager Vacancy at Portishead Primary School	Heads & SBMs	Info
Writing Competition for short stories and poetry	Heads	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Movement of funding from schools to high needs in North Somerset	Heads & SBMs	Info
Consultation on change to top up funding in North Somerset	Heads & SBMs	Info



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Appointments in the Finance Team

It is with sadness that we inform you that Kate Britten will be leaving her post as Finance Officer in the Central Finance Team in February. I'm sure that you will join with us in thanking Kate for her fantastic contribution to the Trust and to wish her every happiness and success in the future.



We are, however, delighted to announce that we have appointed Tom McGreavy to the role of Finance Officer and he will be taking up his new role early in February to allow some handover with Kate. As you will know Tom was appointed as our Finance Apprentice back in December 2021. Since then he has made amazing progress in relation to both his work and his studies. He is a great example of the benefits of apprenticeships, and we are very proud of him.

We have also appointed Ness Forrest as our new Schools Finance Officer. This is a new post due to the increased number of schools in the Trust. Ness currently works at Portishead Primary Schools and will join Sue Warneford-Thomson and Jane Wakefield in February in offering schools high quality financial advice and support. We are delighted to welcome Ness to the team.



Updated policies

In October we launched a policy consultation which included the School Condition Allocation Prioritisation Policy. The [policy](#) is now approved and available on Foldr.

Attendance Updates

Policy and Attendance Letter

As schools have/ are in the process of moving to the new LSP attendance policy, Gary has written [a letter](#) to be shared with all families to remind them about the importance of good attendance and what schools are doing to support this.

EBSA Training and Pilot Project

I am really pleased to confirm that we are ready to move forward with our EBSA pilot project. To launch this, we will be having training from the Anna Freud Centre who are leading providers of children/youth mental health services and training. They have a huge amount of expertise in EBSA and we are delighted they will be supporting us in our professional development in this area.

The training will be on **8th February 12 - 3.30pm** at St Peter's School Teaching School Room. It will include training from the Anna Freud Centre and time to discuss our LSP pilot project. We can train up to 30 people so I think it would be useful for attendance leads and key staff working to support children/ young people with EBSA. This is open to schools who have already confirmed they would like to work on this pilot project and others who think it is relevant to them/ want to develop expertise in this area.

Please confirm your attendance on this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/DvknCuXWsx>

Attendance Reviews and Data

This term, I will be sharing weekly attendance data for schools in LSP and national figures. We are aiming to send these at the end of each week. This will allow schools to have a trust and national benchmark / comparison to their individual data.

We are continuing to implement our LSP attendance structure, which includes termly attendance reviews with Headteachers and Pete Noble, our EWO provider.

Janine Ashman

One West Website

I would like to encourage School Business Managers to sign up to the Members Area of the [One West website](#) if they have not done so already, as they have lots of good information and free resources on there, such as training, awareness posters for adults and children, news bulletins, podcasts, etc.

You probably know One West best for their services of data protection and audits, but you can find on their website other areas they can perhaps help with - Records Management for example.

Neill Bird

Temporary Office Manager Vacancy at Portishead Primary School

We are currently advertising for a replacement Office Manager (JG6) but as there will be an expected gap of around 6 weeks from 1st Feb until the successful candidate starts, can we ask if anyone would like some overtime to cover some or all of this period.

Please contact Debbie Stephens at Debbie.Stephens@PortisheadPrimary.co.uk or Neil Bird at Neil.Bird@PortisheadPrimary.co.uk if you are interested.

Thank you

Neill Bird



Writing Competition for short stories and poetry

Burnham Book Festival is offering a great opportunity for students who are interested in writing to enter a **free writing competition** for short stories and poetry. There are cash prizes for all age groups and the best work will be published in an anthology. The closing date is **19 February**. Please pass this information on to any teachers and parent networks. Click here for more info.

WRITING CONTEST

SHORT STORY or POETRY

- 11 & Under
- 12 to 18
- 19+ (Adult)

CASH PRIZES!

Closes 19 February

FREE TO ENTER if you live in
Somerset or North Somerset



BURNHAM BOOK FESTIVAL
19 & 20 MAY 2023

burnhambookfest.co.uk

[@burnhambookfest](https://twitter.com/burnhambookfest)



Talks,
workshops,
& readings
**19&20
MAY**

A celebration of
reading and writing, for
any age, any genre.

burnhambookfest.co.uk

@BurnhamBookFest



THE PRINCESS
Theatre & Arts Centre



Burnham
Library

Movement of funding from schools to high needs in North Somerset

The North Somerset Strategic Schools Forum met on Friday to agree on an application to the Government as part of the Safety Valve programme. The Safety Valve is a national programme to try to establish sustainable high needs budgets for the future. As part of this the Government may fund a proportion of the historic deficits that have been built up by local authorities in their high needs budgets.

North Somerset have been invited to be part of the Safety Valve programme and are planning a wide range of actions to reduce high needs overspending. This includes new special school places, additional resources bases, nurture groups and a review of top up funding. All of the planned actions will take some time before making a financial impact and the Council anticipate that their high needs accumulated deficit will peak at about £26m. The Council are hopeful that their involvement in the safety valve programme will result in an allocation of £20m from the Government to significantly reduce the accumulated deficit. It is, however, anticipated that there will still be a shortfall of about £6m. This shortfall will be partly met by North Somerset Council and partly by schools and the Schools Forum agreed that the transfer from the schools to the high needs block will increase from 0.5% to 1% in 2023-24 as the schools contribution to this shortfall. Across the whole of North Somerset this generates an additional £750k contribution from schools. Whilst the transfer from the schools block to the high needs block needs to be agreed by the Schools Forum on an annual basis, the Safety Valve application being made by North Somerset Council will assume that the transfer will remain at 1% for the period of the programme (likely to be 5 years).

Not all schools will be impacted by the increased transfer from the schools block to the high needs block as schools that are funded at the minimum per pupil funding level will not be affected. This does mean that the implications for other schools will be greater. If we estimate that your school will be impacted by this change, we will email you today with our estimation.

Consultation on change to top up funding in North Somerset

We are expecting North Somerset Council to issue a 6 week consultation this week on proposed changes to top-up funding. The proposed changes are likely to have significant implications, and we would like to encourage schools to familiarise themselves with the proposals once they are issued and engage actively in our response.