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Introduction

I'm afraid that this is a week of tensions as well as celebrations. On the first theme, well done to our Headteachers on communicating clearly and directly what we are doing to manage the NEU strike tomorrow. None of us would wish for this situation. The fact that I have had not a single concern or question from an employee and only one from a parent is an index for how well 'school to home' communications have been managed. We are bound to have some tensions and difficulties tomorrow, but we have so far avoided turning an external dispute into an internal one. Let us know if you need any further support.

Tomorrow's celebration is a lovely one. Churchill CE Primary School and Golden Valley Primary School both join LSP on 1st February. Lorraine and Kevin both bring enormous personal capacity to the Trust and so do their schools. We are very proud indeed that they chose LSP and look forward to all that we will do together. I'll be crossing the picket lines tomorrow to present their plaques!

As ever,

Gary

Core Services Charge consultation for 2023-24

The Board of Trustees were due to agree the core services charge consultation at their meeting on 18th January and for the consultation to begin with schools on 19th January. The board agreed to delay this process to enable an additional staffing and pay committee meeting to agree the structure of the Education Team and, subsequently, for the Finance Committee to agree the budget and proposed Core Services Charge for consultation on 31st January.

We now plan to commence consultation on the Core Services Charge for 2023-24 on 2nd February with an end date of 17th February. The results of the consultation will be considered by the Board of Trustees, and a decision made on the Core Services Charge for 2023-24 on 1st March.

I recognise that this reduced the period that you have to consider the proposals and apologise for any inconvenience. We will be hosting a virtual consultation meeting to discuss or raise questions about the consultation on 7th February at 16:00. If you would like to attend, please contact Diane (dlogan@lsp.org.uk)

Equalities and Diversity Draft Policy

The [attached policy](#) has been approved for consultation by the Board but now requires your scrutiny. It is a contested but massively important area and the issue of gender identification is particularly controversial. I fear that I may have favoured it at the expense of other topics. You will see that this is a whole Trust policy but I envisage that most of our schools (all but the smallest) will set additional local Equalities Objectives and Monitoring Plan.

Please submit your comments to the consultation to Diane Logan at dlogan@lsp.org.uk. If you would like to submit changes to the template, please highlight your changes or make them using tracked changes and also send them to Diane.

The consultation will close on 3rd March and the update plan template will be considered by the next full Board meeting.

Critical incident and business continuity plan template

Consultation on the review of the business continuity and critical incident plan was due to commence in December. This was delayed waiting for a new template that was being devised by One West and to gather feedback from schools on how the current plan has been used. We have now gathered some feedback and received and reviewed the new template from One West. The [new critical incident and business continuity plan template](#) is now available for consultation.

The new template is much shorter than the previous version and, we hope, will be more effective in both planning for, and, managing an incident.

We would like to encourage Headteachers and School Business Managers to participate in this consultation. We would also like Chairs of Local Governing Bodies to ensure that the consultation is reported to their LGB and any response from the LGB is noted in their minutes. Chairs may wish to identify a member(s) of the LGB to lead on making a response to share the workload and benefit from governor skills. The Headteacher and Chair of the LGB may also want to consider sharing the consultation with other stakeholders.

Please submit your comments to the consultation to Diane Logan at dlogan@lsp.org.uk. If you would like to submit changes to the template, please highlight your changes or make them using tracked changes and also send them to Diane.

The consultation will close on 3rd March and the update plan template will be considered by the Audit and Risk Committee on 16th March.

Primary Assessment Data

The deadline for our first assessments of this academic year to be on Insight is **31st January**. We will start Trust wide data analysis on 1st February so if you have any missing assessments please can you let Janine know on the 31st January. We hope to have some high level analysis to share with you in the next few days.

These assessments should be shared at school level with your LGBs. We reminded assessment leads of the LSP LGB reporting format and structure to do this and attach the structure now. Please contact Janine if you need any additional support.

We also have hard copies of the LSP Summative Assessment System available - we would like all teachers and school leaders to have a copy. We gave lots to staff who came to moderation, but if you would like more, please let us know how many and we will get them to you.

Attendance and Behaviour/ Suspension/ Exclusion Resources

We are adding these to the new LSP Headteacher Sharepoint which you should be able to access [here](#) in SharePoint.

Centre of Professional Development - Lead and Consultant Teachers

Last year, we were pleased to appoint teachers from across our Trust to these roles. Since then, they have been commissioned to work with schools, teachers and on cross trust projects as well as supporting schools from other Trusts and local authorities. Details of our current LTs/ CTs are attached/ [here](#). If your school would like to commission work please contact Janine Ashman so we are able to support with this process.

As our Trust grows, we need more lead and consultant teachers to support our schools. We would like to recruit more teachers to this team - please let Janine know if you have staff who you think would enjoy this role.



SOMERSET ANNE FRANK CREATIVE WRITING YOUTH AWARDS

Showcase your creative writing
ability with SAFYA!

Nominations Open
Thursday 19th January
Nominations Close
Thursday 2nd March
Awards Ceremony
Wednesday 22nd March

Venue
Wells Cathedral
Author
Emma Craigie

Prizes are as follows
1st place: £75 in book tokens.
2nd place £50 in book tokens.
3rd place £25 in book tokens.

Winners and nominees will
receive a copy of Anne
Frank's diary and a certificate
of recognition.

We welcome all youths, you
need to be in school years
5-13 to enter (KS2 - KS5,
9-18 years old).

All nominations for the
awards will take place
on our website.

To check out our website for
more information, just scan
the QR code, or visit
us at
www.safya.org.uk



No one has
ever become
poor by giving”
– Anne Frank



Somerset
Anne Frank
Youth Awards