

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 29: 1 May 2023



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Introduction

In a boneheaded omission last week, I forgot to share the news of some recent Ofsted reports. I had already trailed that we were very pleased with East Harptree's inspection and there is now a lovely report on Ofsted's website. Well done again to Ian and team.

We were a bit more discreet about the St Peter's Ofsted as we were sworn to secrecy by the HMI. To the few people that haven't heard, I can tell you that the school was judged to be Outstanding. The report is [here](#). I know that many of you will wish to congratulate Catrin, Tim and Angela (and Sharon and Janine) as this is an amazing achievement.

We are all having mixed feelings about Ofsted at the moment. We recognise the rightness of being held to account by the inspectorate but reflect too on the current culture of inspection in the context of Ruth Perry's death. I had a recent conversation with a governor who described being terrified and some of us have felt that emotion even in places where the over-all outcome has been good.

Catrin and I recently discussed whether this ambivalence should prevent us from celebrating St Peter's success. On balance, I don't think it should, but we are using our voice and influence to argue against crude one word summaries and the total reductionism of school labels. So read the full St Peter's report - the whole points to a big achievement and that is good news for the school and for all of us in LSP.

Gary



Consultation on the Health and Safety Policy

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on our updated Health and Safety Policy ends on the 12th May. This is a really important policy, and 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 on the consultation to Diane Logan at dlogan@lsp.org.uk. If you would like to submit changes to the policy, please highlight your changes or make them using tracked changes and also send them to Diane.

Team Teach New Course Dates

There are a couple of Team Teach courses coming up in May and June, if you would like to book any places, please contact Richard Morrison Richard@elementa.org.uk

- Level 1 Tuesday 16th May - £85pp +VAT
- Level 2 Thursdays June 8th & 15th - £142.50pp +VAT

Spaces are limited, so please get in touch ASAP if you would like to book. Their charges will be going up in September, so this is likely to be the last course before the increase.

Call for Senior/Middle leaders to join Cultural Education Steering Group

The West of England Music Alliance (co-led by B&NES, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire Music Services) is looking for senior/middle leaders to join their Cultural Education Steering Group. The vision is to ensure every child and young person in the West of England can access a cultural experience each year, in or outside their school.

Steering group members will be middle to senior leaders in an education setting with a broad view of the aspirations and challenges in their setting and the wider education agenda. The role requires a commitment to attend approximately 4 half-day sessions between June and December 2023. Membership is entirely voluntary.

To discuss joining the steering group, please email music@wema.org.uk by Wednesday 17th May 2023.

Energy Metering and data

Many of the decisions around energy efficiency will start with understanding the data behind energy usage. We have been encouraging the usage of Energy Sparks as a means to help visualise your energy data, however, this relies on having good electricity and gas meters to provide this information.

To support and standardise the information to all schools, we are in the process of upgrading your electricity and gas meters and this will provide the regular data required to then monitor and help make decisions around your energy. Our upgrades will ensure there is useful data communicated, and to support your billing as well.

You may be aware that Energy Sparks moving forward is subject to government funding. As we don't want to limit the information provided to schools, the new meter upgrades will also provide access to energy data via Stark. This way, we will ensure continuity of information regardless of how Energy Sparks will run going forward.

The meter upgrades will have a cost associated with them; this will replace any meter operating charges you currently may pay. The costs will be re-charged back to schools from the LSP and we suggest this is applied to your utilities costs.

We will be in touch directly as to individual cost and lease information, installation times, and any disruptions of supply to plan for. If you have any questions, then please address them directly to Steph Franklin.

FINANCE UPDATES

Preparing for the end of the financial year

Preparations are now underway for the closure of the 2022-23 financial year. Audit workbooks will be available earlier than normal this year in readiness for the LSP Away Day 19th June Monday.

From previous experience, the schools have found that the best approach is to prepare in advance and be up to date with all of the items on your monthly checklist. **Please note that the last day for raising purchase orders in the 2022-23 financial year will be Friday 7th July 2023.**

This date also applies to Amazon purchases and Credit Card purchases which should be used as a contingency option for emergency/site purchasing. Any capital works will be unaffected.

School staff should be advised of a deadline a week earlier, on 30 June 2023 in order to allow finance staff sufficient time to process orders.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Central Finance Team should you have any further queries.