

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 10: 15 November 2023



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LIGHTHOUSE
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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

We are on the eve of two very important INSET days. This Friday (17 November) we have our Primary Teachers Conference with Tom Sherrington. Tom is the author of WalkThrus which are the core of our Trust-wide teaching strategy, so it is brilliant that we will have him with us to hear from the expert. Then next Wednesday (22 November) we have the secondary schools conference at Gordano.

It is a cliché to say this but Prof Michael Barber was right back in 2007 when he said that *'the quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.'* Staff development, and especially honing the skills of our existing staff, is the most powerful tool that we have to make our schools even better and thereby improve the life chances for our pupils. Heads will be prioritising the follow up to these days to ensure that the learning is embedded. If you are on an LGB, I hope that you will soon be hearing all about the impact that our professional development is having at your school.

With best wishes,

Gary



Trust-wide SBM meeting

We have decided to have a joint meeting for all SBMs across the Trust in December rather than individual hub meetings.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday 14 December**, 8:30 for 9:00am start at Backwell School. Breakfast will be provided and we will finish by 11:00am. The hub meetings that you have in your diary for that week will be cancelled.

Please [click here to confirm your attendance](#) and to inform us of any requirements. I look forward to us having some time all together and hope that you can make this date.

Louise Malik

Chief Financial and Operating Officer

Support with the Operational Review - SBM input needed

We will be presenting options for the Operational Review to the Trustees in December. Following this we will be engaging with you all on the proposals including a formal consultation process. Once we have incorporated that feedback, we aim to present our final proposal to Trustees in February for approval.

As part of this work, we will be learning from our existing small schools model and talking to other trusts about what has and hasn't worked for them. However, nobody knows better what our school office teams do than our School Business Managers so we would like one or two of our existing School Business Managers to work with Louise Malik and Tim Monelle to review some of the details we are considering. This is your opportunity to help shape what the future of LSP operations is like for all stakeholders - especially those who work in our schools.

If you would be interested in helping us with this, we'd love to hear from you. This could be a few hours from your existing role, some extra paid hours or even just volunteering an hour a week to look over what we are doing.

Please email [Louise Malik](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

Portrait of King Charles

We have been given the ordering information for any schools that would like to have a copy of the portrait of the King. [Cubiquity Media - Login \(cubiquityonline.com\)](#). The portrait is free and would be suitable to display in a public area. There is no Trust directive on this, so Heads and Chairs can decide if they would like to have one.

iWest Data Protection Audits

As you are aware iWest is the Data Protection Officer for the LSP. Part of their service is to run annual data protection audits within LSP schools to ensure compliance with data protection and GDPR laws and regulations.

All LSP Schools (apart from Burrington and Wroughton, who are scheduled for a site visit) will be receiving a 'support call audit' this year (instead of an onsite visit). Molly Kirkham, our iWest contact, has been contacting schools to book in this support call. If you have not yet responded to Molly please can you do so as soon as she contacts you to ensure your call can be booked in at a suitable time.

Each support call will last approx. 45 minutes and will focus on specific areas identified in your onsite audit last year.

A reminder that all data breaches should be reported directly to iWest within **72 hours of the breach occurring**; to do this you need to email and copy in dpo@lsp.org.uk

If you have any questions about this please email the [LSP Data Protection email](#).

Rearranged: Safeguarding and Single Central Record Surgery

In response to questions and queries raised in recent Safeguarding Audits we are offering a Safeguarding/Single Central Record (SCR) surgery has been rearranged for **Monday 20 November** between 11.00am-1.00pm.

An updated calendar invitation has been sent to all schools (via your SBM or office email) for this MS Teams session. Please feel free to forward to other members of staff if applicable.

It would be useful if you sent any questions you might have in advance of the session by submitting them on [this online form](#).

We plan to answer these questions in the first part of the session and follow that with an opportunity for any individual questions you might have.



Publication of Trust-wide policies: Educational Visits and Lettings (updates, All Info)

As mentioned in the bulletin last week following the recent consultation period the Educational Visits policy and guidance has now been published. These documents apply Trust-wide and supersede any other policies/documents you may already have in place at your school.

A copy of these documents can be found in the Operational Policies folder on Foldr: [LSP Policies on Foldr](#)

The Lettings Policy has also been updated and republished to reflect Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. A copy of this policy can be found on Foldr (same link as above) and on the [LSP Website](#).

Energy Sparks update

We are pleased to say that Energy Sparks have revised their previous offer for us to remain with them for this year and are offering all of our HH/AMR schools the opportunity to remain with them for monitoring and wider sustainability and energy saving resources. As this would usually incur a cost, the Energy Sparks team are asking for commitment and engagement from each school to be eligible to sign up with them for this year. They will be contacting you individually for you to make that decision.

Energy Sparks is a great way to review your energy spend and will certainly be an asset while we wait to complete the meter upgrade programme across the estate.

If you have any questions, please contact [Steph Franklin](#) (Sustainability and Project Manager).

GL Assessments—last call

If you're thinking about ordering a GL dyslexia and dyscalculia Assessment screener, it is worth noting that the more schools we have ordering together the bigger the discount. So far we have two schools placing an order; one more and all three schools get 5%. More than 5 schools and we get 7.5% etc.

Any orders received by **Friday 17 November** will be included in the trust order and may mean that we qualify for a discount. For any orders received after that date, schools will be asked to place their own orders direct

with GL assessment. Please email bwatts@lsp.org.uk by Friday 17 November with your request.

Total schools	Discount %
3-5	5.0
6-9	7.5
10+	10.0
20+	12.5

[Click here](#) to download this LSP Gateway poster to display and share with staff.



LSP Gateway
Rewards, benefits & employee resources

BIGGEST DEALS *of the year*

24-27 NOVEMBER

The last weekend of November is the time for impressive discounts. From **BLACK FRIDAY** until **CYBER MONDAY** you will be able to save on just about everything, and with your discounts on **LSP Gateway**, you can maximise your savings even more!

Scan Me



Get ready for a weekend
of mind-blowing savings on
[HTTP://LSPGATEWAY.ORG.UK](http://LSPGATEWAY.ORG.UK)

‘Internal’ Governor Recruitment

Please could you share the below message, from Adele Haysom, Chair of Trustees with your governors:

*Are you a LSP Governor who would like to join a second LGB
or have a secondment to another LSP LGB?*

We are currently looking for people to enhance the skillset of some of our LGBs and also share best practice across our LSP schools. In particular we are urgently looking for an experienced Governor with finance skills and knowledge to support one of our primary school boards.

This could be a great opportunity to experience LSP governance in a different setting working with different executive and LGB members.

Please email the [LSP Central Team](#) if you can offer your help and support.

‘External’ Governor Recruitment

If you do have vacancies on your LGB:

In addition to placing ‘adverts’ in school newsletters and emails home and on school social media sites there are a number of websites you can use to advertise for Governors:

[Governors for Schools](#)

[Inspiring Governance](#)

The NGA has [advice and guidance](#) on what to look for and how to advertise which you may find helpful.

There is also some basic information on becoming a Governor on the [LSP website](#) if you wanted to point prospective applicants in this direction.



Changes to your LGB—notifying the LSP Central Team



On the [Clerks' SharePoint homepage](#) you will find a link to a form which needs to be completed each time you have a change, addition or resignation from your Local Governing Body.

Please complete this form as swiftly as possible so that the Central Team and Trustees are informed of any changes promptly.


Trustees will be reviewing LGB changes and appointments at their meeting on Tuesday 12 December. It is worth noting that Trustees can make re-appointments in advance (for example reappoint in December for a term of office which will expire in February 2024).

You do not need to wait for trustee approval before starting DBS checks etc for a new governor. They are also welcome to join training sessions. However they cannot vote before their appointment has been noted and confirmed by the Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions please contact [Chris Hills, Governance Professional](#).

Link Governor Contact List

At the Chairs Forum held on Tuesday 17 October, it was suggested that Link Governors (Safeguarding, Health and Safety etc) may like to contact each other to share best practice and ideas or ask questions.

A  [central spreadsheet](#) has been put together on the [Governance SharePoint](#) site; Once complete this contacts list can then be used by Chairs and Clerks to identify the contact details for link governors.

Please could Clerks fill in the relevant columns with the name and email address (school emails only please) for your link governors by **Thursday 30 November**.

FINANCE UPDATES

Increase in RPA

The RPA 2024 -25 price is increasing by £2k per pupil from **Sunday 1 September 2024 - Sunday 31 August 2025** reflecting recent increases in inflation and the cost of meeting claims.

IMP is currently projecting £23 per pupil across all years. The Finance Team will update this per pupil increase today on your behalf and the system will calculate the increase in costs for 2024/25 and other years based on your projected pupil numbers.

DfE webinar: Cutting the Cost of School Uniform

The Department for Education is hosting a one hour live event to help school leaders implement the [statutory cost of school uniform guidance](#). During the webinar you will hear directly from school leaders about how the principles of the guidance have been applied in their schools to reduce the cost of their uniform whilst still maintaining their core values and ethos. There will be time to ask follow-up questions to gain a greater insight into the schools' decision-making process.

The event will place online on the **Wednesday 29 November** at 16:00. You can register via this [link](#).

Governor Pupil Premium Training Session

All schools are required to publish their Disadvantaged Strategy on the school website by Sunday 31 December. As part of their role governors should understand how the funding is spent in their school, why and how the impact of this is monitored.

We are offering all governors (especially those with responsibility for Pupil Premium) a training session which will be held on Teams on **Thursday 8 February** from 6:30 - 7:30pm. The session will be led by Neil Lankester (LSP Strategic Lead for Disadvantaged Pupils).

In this session we will be covering:

- Statutory requirements around disadvantaged funding
- Questions to ask school leaders regarding the intent, implementation and impact of funding

To sign up for this session please click [here](#).

Boolean Maths Hub News Bulletin: CPD opportunities

The Boolean Maths Hub have published their Term 2 News Bulletin for Primary and Early Years. The newsletter includes details of DfE funded CPD opportunities starting in Terms 2 and 3.

[Follow this link](#) to read the Newsletter.

Upcoming Lighthouse Learning and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

Date	Event
Friday 17 November	LSP Shared Primary INSET -Tim Sherrington @ St Peter's School
Monday 20 November 1.15-4.00pm	Primary Science Network: Online (more details to follow)
Friday 24 November 1.15 - 4.00pm in person	Primary English Network: English Hub Building, St Peter's School
Monday 4 December 3.00-6.00pm	SEND Law and Funding Training with Garry Freeman Online

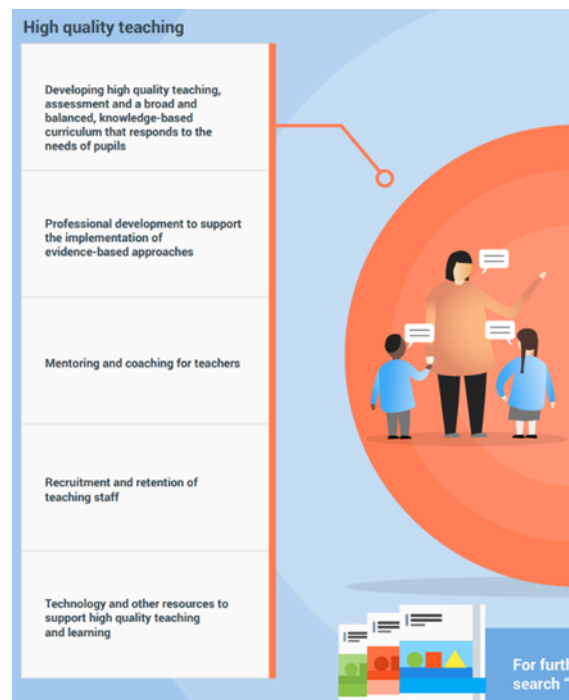


‘School Improvement Snippets’ Supporting Disadvantaged Learners

Core message 2: Stop looking for the silver bullet, teachers delivering the highest quality teaching every day in every classroom is the intervention!

Last week I shared with you core message 1 around supporting disadvantaged learners ‘an effective disadvantaged plan should always be built on high quality teaching in the classroom’ - this week we will continue this theme.

The EEF toolkit indicates that the biggest proportion of time, energy and resources should be spent on delivering the highest quality teaching. This is logical and sensible because a daily diet of solid teaching will create solid foundations for our pupils - interventions can compliment this to support raised levels of achievement but if we focus on ‘intervention’ first we try to ‘paper over the cracks’ which is unlikely to result in raised levels of achievement. This is why as a Trust we are working to ensure that our approach to teaching and learning is based on clear and explicit modelling, 100% participation and engagement with lots of really effective feedback from teaching staff - if we get this right our disadvantaged pupils will **especially** reap the benefits.



What can senior leaders do to ensure this happens?



Through the SDP you are all focussing on delivering high quality teaching. The CPD which is planned and delivered to teaching staff alongside the feedback they get on whether they are achieving this is key - remember if you do not train on it will not change as it will not happen by chance. As part of this it is really important to get teachers to look at good practice, analyse it and try to replicate

it this can be through staff meeting videos or through lesson studies. Videos can be found in the ULS materials on the [NCTEM](#) website and through [TLAC](#). This helps everyone to look at the same thing and think about the same thing. It is also really important to give staff regular, individual feedback against the WAGOLL they will not know if they are achieving it in our Headteacher meetings we have been talking about using individual coaching conversations once every 2 weeks against the specific objectives you are all working on to develop coherence with the team for the benefit of the pupils. The EEF report into [effective CPD](#) can support further thinking about this.

continued...

Supporting Disadvantaged Learners

At the Disadvantaged Conference, Marc Rowlands pushed the point that effective teaching is about moving beyond compliance, it is about rolling up your sleeves and actually delivering on what we say we deliver. Leading and sustaining change takes hard work and critical reflection on what we are doing through iterative cycles of improvement this is why we are working on tight SDP planning and monitoring in our Headteacher meetings as well as in our SIP visits. Finally...

High quality teaching



Developing high quality teaching, assessment and a broad and balanced, knowledge-based curriculum that responds to the needs of pupils

Evidence indicates that high quality teaching is the most powerful way for schools to improve pupil attainment, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged students.

Schools should focus on building teacher knowledge and pedagogical expertise, curriculum development, and the purposeful use of assessment. This could include the selection of high quality curriculum materials or investment in the use of standardised assessments.

- Our **Teaching and Learning Toolkit** summarises the best available evidence on a variety of teaching and learning approaches, explaining their average impact, cost, and key considerations when putting them into practice.
- Our **guidance reports** offer evidence-informed recommendations on how schools can improve practice across a range of areas such as literacy, maths, science, and teacher feedback.
- Cognitive science approaches offer principles that hold promise for improving the quality of teaching. Our **Cognitive Science in the Classroom: A Review of the Evidence** provides an accessible summary.
- Evidence Based Education's **Great Teaching Toolkit** summarises high quality evidence on improving teacher effectiveness.

Professional development to support the implementation of evidence-based approaches - for example, training provided by a **DfE validated systematic synthetic phonics programme** or mastery-based approaches to teaching or feedback

Supporting continuous and sustained professional development is crucial to developing teacher practice. The content of professional development should be based on the best available evidence and should balance the need to build knowledge, motivate teachers, develop specific techniques, and embed new approaches.

- Our **Teaching and Learning Toolkit** summarises the evidence on potential approaches that schools might choose as a focus for professional development.
- Our **Effective Professional Development guidance report** can support you in selecting, designing, and delivering meaningful professional development opportunities.
- Our **accompanying support tools** drill further into the detail, exploring what a balanced approach to professional development could look like, and more.

Mentoring and coaching for teachers

Mentoring and coaching can be an important source of support, particularly for early career teachers. Schools should carefully consider the core components that make these strategies effective when developing their approach.

- Our **Effective Professional Development** guidance report is accompanied by a poster, **Effective Mechanisms of Professional Development**, which outlines the mechanisms that make mentoring or coaching more likely to be effective.
- The National Institute of Teaching's **Mentoring and Coaching of Teachers** research report gives an overview of the research underpinning mentoring and coaching.

I will be contacting Disadvantaged Leaders this week with a link for a 1 hour Teams meeting to reflect on the content of the conference and how they are implementing the plan in your school before the report is published on the school website by Sunday 31 December. The meeting will be held on Teams on **Thursday 7 December** from 4:15-5:15pm.

Neil Lankester
Director of School Improvement

KEY LINKS, DATES AND DEADLINES

These reminders do not replace the Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly.

Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please let us know.

[Click here to access the Annual Planner \(via Sharepoint\)](#)

[Click here to access an index of previous bulletin articles](#)

[Click here to access previous editions of the LSP weekly bulletin](#)

DATE	KEY DATE OR DEADLINE	FAO
Friday 17 November 2023	Primary INSET Day @ St Peter's with Tom Sherrington	Primary Heads
Wednesday 22 November 2023	Secondary INSET Day @ Gordano School	Secondary Heads
Friday 24 November	Deadline for response to Policy Consultation: Complaints	All
Friday 24 November	Submit projected financial out-turn report as at end October following approval by LGB to Central Team .	Clerks/SBMs



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