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LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

If you read last week's bulletin introduction, you may recall that I quoted from the Army's guidance about remembering to slow down rather than speed up when the pressure is on. The comment elicited a more rounded response from our colleague, Richard Riordan Headteacher at Golden Valley. Many of you will know that before coming into teaching, Richard was a Royal Marine. He has agreed to me sharing his reflection with you;

"Slow is smooth. Smooth is fast."

At its core, the saying "Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast" emphasises the importance of accuracy, consistency, and a controlled pace in executing tasks. Contrary to popular belief, the fastest route to success isn't always about rushing headlong into tasks. It's about maintaining a rhythm, a smoothness in operation that naturally leads to increased speed and efficiency ... we call this a cadence. It was initially developed as a training mantra for situations where speed and precision were both critical.

I'll not comment further! Wishing you good cadence.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



New staff in the Central HR Team

We are delighted to welcome two additional team members to the Central HR Team.

Ed Holland (pictured right—above) and Helen Spirit (right—below) have both started with us this week as HR Assistants. With the additional capacity that Ed and Helen bring, we will be fully staffed in the HR Team and also able to support the new schools that are joining us in January. I'm sure that you will join us in welcoming them both to the Trust.

Our [Who's Who in the Central Team](#) document has been updated to include Ed and Helen.

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer



Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Funding Consultation 2025-26

Bath and North East Somerset Council have begun their funding consultation for 2025-26. [Click here to view the documents.](#)

Louise Malik will be responding to the consultation on behalf of the Trust so if you have any comments or views you would like to be included please [let her know](#) by 9.00am on Wednesday 13 November 2024.

Our intended response is as follows:

- Respond in favour to question 1 - to use the same methodology as the national funding formula to incorporate the inclusion of 3 separate grants into your GAG funding.
- Respond in favour of question 2 - the continuation of a transfer of 0.5% to the High Needs Block
- No further comments for question 3

Please feel free to [contact Louise Malik](#) if you have any questions about this.



Website Compliance Checklist

As you are aware the [Department for Education has a list of documents and information](#) that must be displayed and uploaded on school website. This was updated over the summer so it is important to check to ensure your website is displaying the correct, up to date information (including contact details, policies etc.).

You can download a helpful checklist (from The Key for School Leaders) [here](#).

LSP Art Competition - Thank you

Thank you to all schools who submitted their pupils' entries to the LSP Art Competition 2024.

We were really impressed by the number and quality of entries (picture below shows just a few of the submissions).

Judging is taking place this week and we will update you on the winners next week.



Job Vacancy - Finance Assistant

We are seeking to appoint an additional Finance Assistant in our Central Finance Team.

The postholder will work as a part of a small team administering the finances of the Trust and supporting schools with their financial administration.

Please feel free to share this role with anyone who may be interested.

Full details and Job Description are [available here](#).

Reminder: Don't forget that you can view [all LSP vacancies on iTrent](#).

Parental Reminder - Secondary Application Deadline

The deadline for applying for secondary schools Year 7 places for September 2025 is 11.59pm on Thursday 31 October (this is during half term).

Please can you remind your parents of this on upcoming emails home over the next few weeks.

We have some wording and an image ([download here](#)) you can use below should you wish:



DON'T FORGET 

Thursday 31 October 2024 is the deadline for applying to Secondary Schools for 2025

School places will be confirmed on National Offer Day (1 March 2025)

Reminder - Secondary School 2025 Application Deadline

If you have a child due to start secondary school (Year 7) in September 2025 please ensure you have applied by 11.59pm on Thursday 31 October 2024.

Applications are made directly to the local authority (council) where you live. To find out more about the application process please visit:

[For those living in North Somerset - click here](#)

[For those living in Bath and North East Somerset \(BANES\) - click here](#)

[For those living in Bristol - click here](#)

Risk Registers

You may recall we issued a new risk register template at the end of the summer term (bulletin [Wednesday 17 July 2024](#)) with a suggestion to move to the new template in time for the next review (15 November 2024). If you are unable to meet this deadline, then please ensure the template transfer is completed for the 3 March 2025 submission date. A copy of the blank template has been placed in the **Business Continuity, Cyber Security & Risk Registers TEAM** in your private school channel. Once in your channel, click on **Files** and **Risk Register**. Please update your template here going forward, it will mean there is no requirement to make a separate submission three times a year and the document will remain live. If you have any access issues, please contact trustservices@lsp.org.uk

As a result of carrying out the risk register transfer process with schools in the centralised service, we would like to suggest the following:

- Work your way through the examples that are on the template and enter the likelihood of each occurrence. Some of these examples may already be on your current risk register, if there is additional detail that you wish to transfer please do so in **bold text** so that it is easily identifiable. For example an early warning indicator or mitigation/control specific to your school that you would like recorded:

Category of risk	Risk of:	Caused by:	Resulting in:	School Specific Risk (for Federated schools only)	Early Warning Indicators	Treatment of risk	Mitigation and controls in place
Health and Wellbeing	No access to emergency contact details, medical issues or special requirements	Loss of access to network	Unable to provide appropriate care and supervision for learners		Reports from staff	Treat	Business continuity and critical incident plan in place and well communicated, paper copies and records kept of pupil medical needs & contact details, school mobile phone kept by office and

- If you have risks on your current risk register that are site specific and require more detail then please add those to the bottom e.g. Leaking roof. This will mean that as and when the risks are closed, you will retain the overarching risk of Estate & Compliance at the top of the register and will therefore still consider the risk of deteriorating buildings at the next review.

If you have any questions regarding the new risk register template please contact trustservices@lsp.org.uk. Please note, for schools in the centralised service, this will be completed at our forthcoming meetings.



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

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

Agendas, Teams links (if required) and other resources will be emailed one week in advance of each network.

The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2024-25 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Thursday 17 October 6.30-8.00pm	LSP Chairs' Forum @ Backwell School	LGB Chairs



LSP Chairs' Forum - Thursday 17 October

A reminder that our next Chairs' Forum will take place tomorrow (Thursday 17 October) from 6.30pm at Backwell School.

The session is being held in the Conference Room at the school. Please access the school site via Station Road and Meadow Close. The postcode is BS48 3BX.

All Chairs have been emailed earlier this week with the agenda and relevant documents and information for this session

Adele Haysom, Chair of Trustees, is looking forward to seeing you all.

Trauma Informed Training Course

The Local Authority (North Somerset Council) are funding a package of trauma informed training which starts in January 2025. (this is a rerun of the sessions delivered last year in North Somerset)

The training is for one person per setting and they would need to attend all six days. The training is free but schools would obviously need to pay any release costs for the person attending.

This training complements the work we are doing with Nurture UK. If you are interested in putting someone from your school on the training, please [email Jacqui Scott](#) to request this.

[Further information included in document here.](#)



A strong foundation in the first years of school: a report from OFSTED

Research and analysis

Strong foundations in the first years of school

Published 8 October 2024

Last week OFSTED published their latest report into best practice in Reception. This report follows on from the 2017 report [Bold Beginnings](#) and the [Best Start in Life](#) series which contain research and evidence into best practice for pre-school from 0 - 4. The latest report highlights 3 key findings:

- Not all children are finishing key stage 1 with the foundational skills and knowledge they need - particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- Evidence that teaching of early reading is improving, but weaknesses remain in some schools' English curriculums.
- Strong curriculum and teaching have greatest impact on children who begin school with the lowest starting points.

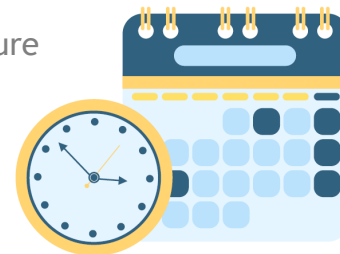
The report itself dives into detail for each of these areas and I would really recommend that all primary headteachers read this and discuss the implications for your school with your EYFS Leader. At the EYFS Leaders Network this week we began to unpick some of the key findings around curriculum and purposeful play. The report further backs up the piece of work we are doing in this network around the design, content and delivery of the curriculum in knowledge and understanding of the world (KUW). It also backs up the piece of work Janine is leading on early writing across the Trust.

Next term in the Primary Headteachers' Meeting we will be discussing EYFS curriculum and teaching in more depth so please take time to read this in advance. The report can be found [here](#).

Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement

Key Dates, Deadlines and Reminders

These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly (link on next page).



Key Dates

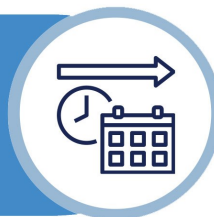
DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
9–30 October	Consultation window for Finance Policy . Please submit any comments to enquiries@lsp.org.uk	All
Friday 25 October 2024	Deadline for Teacher and Leadership Performance Development (Appraisals) to be completed.	Heads & SBMs
Wednesday 30 October 2024	Return date for Autumn Census Data	SBMs/OMs
Thursday 31 October 2024	Deadline for Support Staff Appraisals to be completed.	Heads & SBMs
Friday 22 November 2024	Deadline for providing evidence to DfE Curriculum and Assessment Review. Click here to access the call for evidence	All



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](#).

Annual Planner 2024/25

Click to view the Annual Planner
(Via Sharepoint)



Bulletin Index

Click to access an index of
previous bulletin articles

Previous Bulletins

Click to access previous editions of the
LSP Weekly News Bulletin



The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of the
LSP Newsletter: The Beacon



SHARE WITH US

Don't forget, you can submit your school news stories to
be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: newsletter@lsp.org.uk