



In this week's edition...

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Policies Approved - Core Service Charge 2025-26	All	Info
Policies Approved - Admissions Arrangements for 2026-27	All	Info
Policies Approved - CCTV Policy Template for schools	All	Info
Consultation on the way Ofsted inspects education	All	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Budget Planning timetable 2025-26	Heads & SBMs / Office Managers	Info
Assumptions for producing 3-year budgets	Heads & SBMs / Office Managers	Info
ESTATES & TRUST SERVICES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Change of Date - Data Protection Workshop	SBMs / Office Managers	Info
GOVERNANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Update following Trust Board Meeting	All	Info
Submission of minutes and LGB updates to the Central Team	Clerks	Reminder
Vacancy - Clerk to Trustees	Clerks	Info
Governor CPD: Secondary Assessment Data	Governors	Info
National Governance Association's (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2025	Clerks & Chairs	Info

Continued...



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CPD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks	All	Info
SENDCo Network – Monday 17 March	Heads & SENCOs	Action
Diocese of Bristol: Andy Spens Training Session - Thursday 27 March	Bristol Heads & Leaders	Info
Diocese of Bath & Wells Training and Events	BANES Heads, Leaders & LGBs	Info
KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES		



Introduction

Dear all,

I am continuing to ruminate on the speakers' contributions to our recent INSET day. In my closing remarks I referred to [Dr Dan Nicholls](#)' challenging idea about how things would really change for Priority Pupils if the only published benchmarking data was the Disadvantaged Attainment and Progress outcomes. I was jolted in the moment by my recognition that so conditioned are we in this neo-liberal world to jump to hit accountability measures that the outcomes data would indeed rise. My immediate reflection is that there would certainly be higher outcomes in qualifications. Then I asked myself would they be good qualifications? If we define outcomes in the widest sense – the permanent and positive change that education works in us - would the children and young people be set up for better futures? Any success in school will actually make this more, rather than less, likely but outcomes data is not the full measure of success.

The real question for us as educators is where do we get our motivation from? Is it intrinsic or extrinsic? I listened to Nick Robinson's Political Thinking podcast on my morning walk today and the extended interview was with Rishi Sunak. Sunak talked about the motivating force that his Hinduism is for him. He stripped this back to the concept of Dharma, which might simply be understood as duty. The refinement that he offered was that Dharma is a call to duty dislocated from outcomes. Outcomes aren't our problem as they are rarely in our total control. The call of Dharma is to work hard and do the right thing anyway and the reward is a life well-lived, not a set of outcomes. [Have a listen, it is really interesting](#). My own religious tradition can be understood in exactly the same way.

As we continue to grapple to get the provision for Priority Pupils right I think that we need to have faith (with a small f) that doing the right thing, is the right thing. The outcomes may be far down the line but have faith that they will follow.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Policies Approved - Core Service Charge 2025-26

At their meeting on Wednesday 26 February the Board of Trustees agreed the Core Service Charge policy for 2025-26.

Thank you to those who provide comments as part of the consultation. This policy has now been published.

You can find a copy of this policy [on Foldr](#): LSP Policies.

Policies Approved - Admissions Arrangements for 2026-27

Trustees have also agreed the Admission Arrangements for 2026-27 for all LSP schools.

These documents have been uploaded to our website and the relevant Diocese and local authorities have been informed. Please also ensure you are familiar with their contents.

For ease, we strongly recommend that your school website directs parents to the [LSP Admissions webpage](#) for Admission Arrangements.

A copy of these documents have also been uploaded [to Foldr](#): LSP Policies/Admissions Arrangements 2026-27

Any questions please email [Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration](#).

Policies Approved - CCTV Policy Template for schools

We have created a CCTV policy template for all LSP schools who have CCTV on their school site. This has been written in collaboration with One-West, to ensure it is compliant in relation to data protection, access requests etc.

All schools who have CCTV on their site needs to move to this policy, and update the template. This should then be published on your website.

The template policy can be found, as a word document, [on Foldr](#): LSP Policies/LSP CCTV Policy Template

If you have any questions, or need any help, please contact the [Trust Services](#) team.

Consultation on the way Ofsted inspects education

As you will be aware in early February Ofsted launched a consultation on their proposed changes to the way education is inspected.

Key changes include:

- the introduction of report cards; these will offer parents and carers more detailed information than the current reports, including a new 5-point grading scale to evaluate more areas of a provider's work and short summaries of what inspectors found.
- education inspection toolkits: these will be used by inspectors and provision leaders to encourage professional dialogue when considering evaluation areas and reaching grades and to support leaders on their continuous improvement journey

A link to key documents for you to look at are below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education>

Ofsted will also be holding a free webinar on Tuesday 24 March which you can sign up for here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7557239631861347931>

Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement



Budget planning timetable 2025-26

There is a detailed budget planning timetable at Appendix 1 of the Budget Assumptions & Guidelines, which schools should familiarise themselves with as soon as possible.

In summary, we are asking schools to have an initial draft 2025-26 3-year budget completed by **Tuesday 22 April** as well as, for primary schools, up to date Deployment Models for 2025-26 and 2026-27 that match their draft budgets. This initial draft budget should include the current known position e.g. resignations already received, etc. It should demonstrate the financial position for the school without taking any further action. (Information on 2025-26 Budget Assumptions and Guidance for producing your 3-year budgets can be seen in the next article.)

The Central Finance Team will contact all schools who are projecting an in-year deficit for 2026-27 as soon after Tuesday 22 April as possible, and during the period from Tuesday 22 April to Friday 6 June, schools will be required to identify the changes that need to be made to set a balanced budget for 2026-27.

Final draft budgets, including fully costed change management proposals for 2026-27 must be ready by Friday 6 June to enable the team to carry out the final quality assurance process in advance of being scrutinised by LGBs. The period between 22 April - 6 June will be very busy for both schools and the Central Finance Team. Therefore, we would ask that schools review the timetable and set aside time in diaries for budget preparation and book a date for review with the Finance Team as soon as you are able by emailing financesupport@lsp.org.uk. Ideally, you should give time to consider any feedback and adjust your draft budget if appropriate *before* your LGB meeting.

We request that your LGB meets by no later than **Friday 4 July** to scrutinise the draft budget and agree any changes so as to propose a budget to the Trustees for ratification. We recommend that LGBs meet a few days before this deadline to enable School Business Managers/ Finance Business Partners to replicate agreed budgets in the master scenario for Trustee approval. The Board of Trustees will review and approve budgets on **Wednesday 16 July**.



Assumptions for producing 3-year budgets

We are pleased to share our 2025-26 Budget Assumptions and Guidance for producing your 3-year budgets. Please [download from Folder](#) under *Information for 2025-26 Budgets*.

We have not yet received GAG statements, but these will be downloaded and shared as soon as they are available, and the Central Finance Team will update 2025-26 funding in IMP as per the guidance provided (but not before **Monday 10 March**).

Please read and work through the guidance document and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Team for support. As firm information on pay awards, currently estimated funding streams and contract costs become available, you will be updated via the Bulletin, Hub meetings and SLA meetings in the usual way.

As IMP calculates many income streams and some expenditure (such as core services and RPA) for schools, the Central Finance Team only produce a few spreadsheet tools to support schools with their budget planning. These are:

- Final GAG Funding estimation tool for 2026-27 & 2027-28 (only available once all GAG statements are available).
- LGPS Pension Deficits estimates for all 3 years.
- National Insurance Contribution Grant (currently an estimate, but actual funding allocations are expected soon and will be notified).
- Post 16 Schools Budget Grant (only available once 16 -19 funding statements are available).
- Central Team financial support for IT replacement (further information to follow).
- School Meals calculator (to help estimate catering costs for 2025-26).
- TUF tracker
- 2025-26 Deployment Model (only available once all GAG statements are available)

We've organised a Teams drop-in session to answer any questions from SBMs on the guidance or budget process at 11.00am on **Thursday 13 March**. Teams invitations have been sent to SBMs already, but attendance is optional.

Change of Date - Data Protection Workshop

Please note that the date of the data protection workshop has been changed to **Tuesday 25 March, 10.00am** on MS Teams (previously advertised as 26 March). The invitation has been amended and re-sent. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact [Trust Services](#).



Update following Trust Board meeting

The following areas were covered at the Trustee Board meeting held on Wednesday 26 February:

- Welcomed two new Trustees to the Board - Justine Stafford and James Townsend.
- Received the CEO's Report, including summaries of the Ashton Gate Conference and recent Ofsted inspections.
- Received the CFOO's report.
- Reviewed and approved the financial planning assumptions for the next 3 years.
- Reviewed and approved the plan for SCA projects.
- Reviewed feedback from Core Services Charge consultation, agreed action plan and approved policy.
- Received an update from the recent Chairs' Forum.
- Received the key messages from Trustee Committee meetings.

Whilst minutes are taken at all Trustee board and committee meetings these contain confidential discussions and decisions about individual schools. Therefore it is inappropriate to make these readily available. If you ever have any specific questions about any of items discussed, please feel free to email [Chris Hills, Governance Professional](#) who will endeavour to answer or forward to the relevant person.

Submission of minutes and LGB updates to the Central Team

At their meeting in March, Trustees will be ratifying changes to LGBs and reviewing RAG rating comments/feedback.

Please can you ensure, by 9.00am on Friday 14 March:

- You have sent your latest minutes, including the RAG rating comment box to lgbreturns@lsp.org.uk
- You have [updated this form](#) with any leavers, new starters or reappointments to your LGB.

Thank you to all those who have already submitted their board minutes.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email [Chris Hills, Governance Professional](#).

Vacancy - Clerk to Trustees

We are currently recruiting for a Clerk to Trustees. This new role has been created following a review of our Governance Support capacity.

To find out more about this position [click here](#).

If you would like to find out more about this role please contact [Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration](#).

Governor CPD: Secondary Assessment Data

Secondary Governors are invited to attend the Secondary Assessment Data Webinar, on **Tuesday 11 March, 6.00 - 6.45pm**.

This session is being run by Natalie Wilcox, Director of Secondary Education and will cover how to understand, interpret and interrogate secondary data for LGBs.

Secondary Clerks, please share the link below with your Governors.

[Click here to book your place](#).

National Governance Association's (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2025

NGA's Outstanding Governance Awards 2025 are now open for nominations for governors, trustees and governance professionals. Categories include:

- Outstanding governance in a single school
- Outstanding governance in a multi-academy trust
- Outstanding Clerk to a Governing Board
- Outstanding Lead Governance Professional

[Find out more and make a nomination here](#)



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](mailto:info@lighthouselearning.co.uk) 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](https://www.lighthouselearning.co.uk).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Wednesday 5 March 3.30-4.30pm	SEND Webinar: Memory and Processing Click here to sign up for this webinar	All staff
Monday 10 March 1.00-4.00pm	Primary English Network English Hub @ St Peter's	Primary English Leads
Tuesday 11 March 6.00-6.45pm	Governor CPD: Secondary Assessment Data Click here to sign up for this webinar	All Secondary Governors
Wednesday 12 March 3.30-4.30pm	Trust-wide Priory Pupils Network Online via MS Teams	Priority Pupils Leads
Wednesday 12 March 3.45-5.15pm	White Rose Maths Mixed Age Webinar: Enable and Extend Link already circulated to attending schools	Specific LSP Schools
Monday 17 March 1.00-4.00pm	Primary History Network English Hub @ St Peter's	Primary History Leads
Monday 17 March 1.00-4.00pm	Trust-wide SEND Network Online via MS Teams	SENDCOs
Wednesday 19 March 3.30-4.15pm	Trust-wide Attendance Network Online via MS Teams	Attendance Leads



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

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DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Wednesday 19 March 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Secondary Networks for Maths and MFL Both Online via Teams (link to be sent from Natalie Wilcox)	Secondary Maths and MFL Leads
Wednesday 19 March 7.00-8.00pm Or Wednesday 26 March 10.00-11.00am	Chairs' Forum Online via MS Teams. Link will be circulated by Governance Professional in due course.	Chairs
Thursday 20 March 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Secondary Network for English Online via Teams (link to be sent from Natalie Wilcox)	Secondary English Leads
Monday 24 March 3.30-5.00pm	Primary Science Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Science Leads
Wednesday 26 March 3.30-4.30pm	Secondary Raising Standards Network Online via MS Teams	Secondary Standards Leads

SENDCo Network – Monday 17 March

As part of the SENDCo Network on Monday 17 March, we request that **Pastoral Leads from each school attend from 3.00pm** alongside the SENDCo. This will enable us to share the updated Pastoral Support Plan and the LSP Mental Health Policy as part of our Graduated SEHM response across the Trust.

MS Teams link for sharing below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 360 556 877 759

Passcode: qT279qq3

Diocese of Bristol: Andy Spens Training Session - Thursday 27 March

The Diocese of Bristol are hosting a training event that will be led by Andy Spens - Head of Professional Learning for the Church of England. The details are below. Please forward this on to any staff members who you think might benefit from taking part in this session. It is open to all and being offered free of charge.

Session Title: Called, Connected, Committed: Christian Educational Leadership

Aspiring church school leaders, middle leaders, DHTs and senior leaders and headteachers are warmly invited to attend this exciting opportunity to hear from Andy Spens, leader on a national level in this inspiring area of learning.

Date: Thursday 27th March

Time: 1pm-4pm

Venue: Diocese of Bristol Office, Hillside House 1500 Parkway North Stoke Gifford BS34 8YU

Book your place here: [Called, Connected, Committed: Christian Educational Leadership Tickets, Thu 27 Mar 2025 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Diocese of Bath & Wells Training and Events

Please see below details and booking links for upcoming Diocese of Bath and Wells Training and Events. Please share with staff/governors as appropriate:

Date, time, venue	Event title	Booking link
Wednesday 26 February 6.00pm, Online	New Chairs of Governors; leading in a church school	Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese
Monday 10 March 6.00pm, Online	Church School Governance for renewing governors	Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese
Thursday 20 March All day, In person	School Leaders and Parish Partner Conference 2025	Booking for 20th March
Friday 21 March All day, In person	School Leaders and Parish Partner Conference 2025	Booking for 21st March.
Friday 2 May All day, In person	Bath and Wells RE Conference 2025	Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese
Wednesday 21 May 4.00pm, Online	SIAMS for Schools	Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese

[Click here](#) to download the poster below:

Daily Deals Week is here!



**3-9
March**

**We've been counting down the days,
and Daily Deals Week is finally here!**

Every day of the week some of our favourite retailers have increased savings, so make sure to check out our top **24h deals** and our week-long offers. If you want to get some shopping done this spring, now is the time!

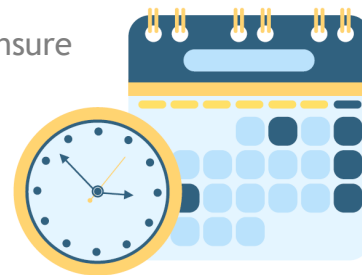


**Access our Daily Deals wherever you
are with the SmartSpending™ App.**

All discounts and offers are subject to change without notice. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

KEY DATES, DEADLINES & REMINDERS

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



Key Dates

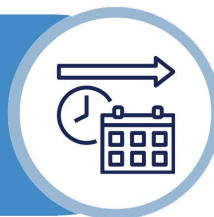
DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Wednesday 5 March	LSP Headteacher's Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church.	Heads
Friday 21 March	Deadline to submit to Estates Additional Bid Fund requests to Callum Fear .	Heads, SBM/OMs & Estates
End of Term 4	Ensure mid-point review 1 is completed for both teachers and school leaders are completed as per Performance Development Policy.	Heads & Leaders
Tuesday 22 April	Deadline to have set initial draft 2025-26 3-year budget.	SBMs & Heads



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