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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

Dear all,

I'm going to exercise some discipline and stay off the funding crisis this week to share a recent experience of using AI. It has rather blown my mind! Yesterday I had an online meeting with Ant Couzens (Chair of Governors at St Mary Redcliffe Primary) and Christina Brugger, the headteacher there. We were talking about the implications of a planning application that is close to the school - a 19-storey development that will literally put the SMRP in the shade if approved. The previous day I had attempted to skim the dozens of uploads to the Bristol City Council Planning Portal in the hope of getting my head around the application and discovering if there was a valid objection that we could raise. I'd made some progress but not much. In the meeting, Ant said that he had used an AI tool to upload the various planning docs and then to interrogate it with questions. Not only did he show us but he also provided a video of the process. In less than one hour of work he had pinpointed the heart of the matter, understood valid and invalid issues and crafted a short but very sharp planning submission. He had been far more efficient than me and was able to contribute to the meeting with a level of expertise that the rest of us lacked.

Last night I tried the same tool, Notebook LM, to see what it could do. I uploaded my recent and very arcane post-graduate thesis and used the tools to make a podcast discussing lines of accountability in academy governance in the context of neo-liberal theories of the state and concepts of governance networks. It has taken me six years of very intense study to get my head around this but in less than five minutes Notebook LM had produced a witty podcast discussing the key themes and making some incredibly erudite points which I can only hope originated in my own writing. The applications of this are incredible - we are entering a time when our power to interrogate text for understanding is increasing exponentially.

My mind is open too to the risks and potential downsides of this new tool. The intensity of my own study has given me a sophisticated understanding of the data as well as the interpretations of it. I don't think that the same depth could have been achieved through a shortcut, but perhaps it could... I listened to the podcast as an expert, but I wonder what someone who had not done the graft themselves would have taken from it. I'll admit that I feel a bit threatened by this new world. Young people will have no such fears. I imagine that colleagues working in universities are seeing a total revolution in learning unfold day by day.

Natalie Wilcox, our Director of Secondary, and Dominic Baldry, our Head of IT Service Delivery, visited Google's London Headquarters last week to see where Google School is going. Notebook LM is a Google tool, and they could see that our capacity as teachers to turn content into accessible new formats to support learning is about to experience a quantum leap. This dimension of educational leadership is clearly going to be an exciting place to be in times ahead. I'll need to revisit the three year strategy!

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Admissions Delegated Services for North Somerset Schools

We have completed the latest Admissions Delegated Services Form centrally for all LSP North Somerset schools - so you do not need to fill this in yourselves at school level.

We have submitted the following for 2025-26 (no change from this academic year):

- Primaries: All services (bulk admissions, in year admissions, admission arrangements and appeals) are delegated to NSC for 2025-26/2026-27
- Secondaries: All services (bulk admissions, admission arrangements and appeals) EXCEPT in-year admissions allocations to be delegated to NSC for 2025-26/2026-27

If you have any questions, or the above is not suitable for your school, please [contact me as soon as possible](#) and by the end of term at the latest.

Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration

Latest Edition of The Beacon

The latest edition of our staff newsletter, The Beacon, and Gary's CEO video address was circulated yesterday directly to all staff. We hope you enjoy the contents. Thank you to all those who submitted stories and articles.

You can also view [the newsletter here](#).

Clerks - please can you forward the email with The Beacon links onto your LGBs.

The next issue of The Beacon, in July, will be aimed at both staff and parents, and will include a round-up of news, updates and events from across all LSP schools.

Please start thinking of contributions now!



Current Vacancies - Head of School | Assistant Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher Secondment/FTC - Northleaze Primary School

Northleaze Church of England Primary School have an exciting secondment/fixed term contract opportunity for an experienced teacher looking to extend their leadership experience. Working alongside the school's new Headteacher, the Assistant Headteacher will have a teaching responsibility with regular leadership time.

Please contact Janine Ashman at jashman@lsp.org.uk or on 01275 841396 for a discussion about the post.

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Thursday 22 May 2025.

Interviews will be held on Friday 23rd May 2025.

[For more information or to apply, click here.](#)

Head of School (Internal Only) - Blagdon Primary School

We invite expressions of interest for the role of Head of School at Blagdon Primary School. This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and dedicated leader who is passionate about primary education and inclusive practice. The Head of School will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Blagdon Primary School. This is a full-time, fixed-term position for one year, with the possibility of extension.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Lewis CEO, or Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement on 01275 841396 or via email to glewis@lsp.org.uk and nlankester@lsp.org.uk.

[For more information or to apply, click here.](#)

The closing date for applications is Midday on Friday 30 May 2025.



North Somerset Council Top-up Funding Consultation

North Somerset Council (NSC) have now opened their consultation on top up funding and, last Friday, they emailed Headteachers individually with the consultation documents and a demonstration of the estimated financial impacts. We have saved the documents in a new folder called [NSC Top up funding consultation May 2025](#) in the LSP Communications folder.

The consultation closes on **Monday 23 June** and NSC are holding consultation meetings on Friday 6 and Tuesday 10 June. I hope that the session that LSP held this morning has helped you to understand the proposals and to consider your views. If you were unable to attend, you can [find the recording here](#).

We intend to submit a trust-wide response to the consultation, but you are, of course, welcome to submit your own response. A first draft of the Trust response will be shared in the bulletin on Wednesday 4 June. If you wish to add or change anything in the Trust response, please email me by the end of the day on Wednesday 18 June so that we can submit by the Monday 23 June deadline.

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

Devolved Capital Funding (DFC) - final allocations

The DfE have published the final DFC allocations to be paid in June 2025 and these have been downloaded and saved in the Information for 2024-25 budget folder [in Foldr](#) for your information:

*School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information on 2024- 2025 Budgets -
School_capital_funding_allocations-provisional - payable June 25 (for 24-25)*

These values should be the same as those calculated by IMP based on Spring 24 census pupil numbers added to IMP. For secondary schools, any discrepancy between the final allocation and the IMP calculated value is likely to be due to the pupil weighting for Post 16 pupils. In these circumstances, school should manually update the 2024-25 DFC value in IMP but leave future years to calculate.

All schools should take the opportunity to review their January 2025 census and update IMP Spring 2025/26 pupil numbers if they haven't already done so.

Sue Warneford-Thomson, School Finance Support Manager

Non-staffing Expenditure Benchmarking

For the first time, we have compiled information available to us from IMP on some areas of non-staffing costs as an additional expenditure benchmarking exercise. The information has been downloaded from the Draft Budget as at Wednesday 23 April and expenditure calculated per pupil with the aim of providing additional support to schools working on reducing in-year deficits.

It is worth noting that although the Central Finance Team has worked hard to ensure consistency of how nominal codes are used across our schools, there is some disparity in the use of nominal codes in some of the areas of expenditure we have chosen to analyse. We will try and pick this up in our 2026-27 budget planning guidance to improve the value of information we can provide in future years. However, we still think that the information is worth sharing and would recommend that all schools consider those areas of expenditure where expenditure per pupil is more than comparator schools. Information on federated schools has once again been provided. You can find the [information in Foldr:](#)

School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information on 2025- 2026 Budgets - Non-staffing benchmarking- Draft budgets 23.04.25



Update: Managed Service for Supply Staff

As you will recall we are [investigating moving to a managed service supply staff](#). At the presentation day on Wednesday 30 April the working group identified Affinity Workforce Solutions (AWS), as the company we would like to work with should we decide to move forward with a managed service for supply staff across LSP. Since then references have been obtained from local trusts who have been working with AWS, all of which were favourable. Trust Services are now reaching out to the supply agencies that we use frequently and extensively to make them aware of our intentions and to discuss the possibility of them joining our supply pool.

To give sufficient time for implementation a decision to move forward will need to be made in the next few weeks. Schools will still be able to use their 'employed' supply staff and will also be able to go 'off scheme' if the managed service cannot fulfil their requirements.

We will update you with any progress but if you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact trustservices@lsp.org.uk

Feedback on Hills Waste & Recycling Contract

With nearly all LSP schools having moved over to Hills for their waste and disposal service, we are gathering some feedback about the contract. The contract runs to 30 June 2026 at which point the contract will be reviewed. Please be mindful that it is commonplace for initial small issues whilst any contract embeds.

We are seeking your comments regarding any longer-term issues, any suggestions for service development and of course any positive feedback if it's due.

Further to our email last week, to SBMs and OMs we would be grateful if you could [complete this quick form](#) with your thoughts and experiences. Thank you to those who have done this already.

You can forward the link if you would like to submit an additional response from any member of your site team.



LSP Clerk Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies for Clerks in the Trust, including an exciting new opportunity at [Backwell School](#).

To find out more about these, or to express an interest (if you are currently clerking with us), please email the Central Admin Team on enquiries@lsp.org.uk

Please do share within your networks/contacts in case you know anyone who may be interested and consider including on your school newsletters/emails home.

Term 4 Local Governing Body Minutes

As we come to the end of term a reminder to ensure you submit your Term 4 LGB minutes to lgbreturns@lsp.org.uk

Thank you to all our Clerks for their support and our Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) for their contributions this term.





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 21 May 3.30-4.30pm	SEND Webinar—Dyspraxia Click here to sign up to this webinar	All
TERM 6		
Monday 9 June 1.00-4.00pm	LSP Early Years Network @ St Peter's Primary School	Early Years Leads
Monday 9 June 3.00-4.30pm	Trust-Wide DSL Network Online via MS Teams	All LSP DSLs
Monday 16 June 1.00-4.00pm	LSP Primary English Network @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary English Leads
Tuesday 17 June 1.00-3.00pm	LSP Church Schools Network Online via MS Teams	Church School Leaders
Monday 23 June 1.00-4.00pm	LSP Primary History Network @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary History Leads
Monday 23 June 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Primary Assessment Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Assessment Leads
Tuesday 24 June 6.00-7.30pm	Governance: Risk Management Webinar <i>Webinar sign up link to follow</i>	Governors

Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

CONTINUED....		
Wednesday 25 June 3.30-4.30pm	Trust-Wide Priority Pupil Network Online via MS Teams	Priority Pupil Leads (All)
Monday 30 June 1.00-3.15pm	LSP Primary AHT/DHT Network @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary AHTs & DHTs
Monday 30 June 1.00-3.15pm	Trust-Wide SEND Network Online via MS Teams	SENDCos (All)
Monday 30 June 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Primary Science Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Science Leads
Wednesday 2 July 3.30-4.15pm	Trust-Wide Attendance Network Online via MS Teams	Attendance Leads (All)
Tuesday 8 July 6.30-8.00pm	New Governor Training Online via MS Teams	New LSP Governors
Wednesday 9 July 10.30-12.00noon	New Governor Training Online via MS Teams	New LSP Governors



Sign Up for the LSP Governance Conference

We invite all those within Governance at LSP, including Chairs, Clerks, Trustees and Governors to attend the LSP Governance Conference on Thursday 12 June.

[Click here to sign up](#), and inform us of any dietary or access needs. Deadline to confirm attendance is 10.00am on Thursday 5 June 2025.



LSP
**GOVERNANCE
CONFERENCE**

THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025

Flourishing Boards

This event is for all LSP Clerks, Chairs, Governors and Trustees - we really hope to see you there!

- 5.30-6.00pm Arrival and networking.
Tea, scones and nibbles will be served
- 6.00-7.30pm: Speakers including Gary Lewis, Adele Haysom and key note speaker Andy Spens who will be talking about Flourishing Boards.

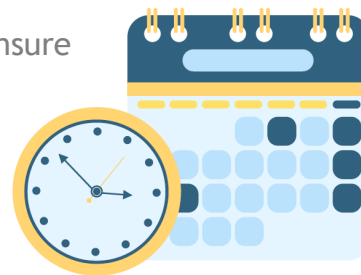
VENUE:
BACKWELL SCHOOL
BS48 3BX

REGISTER NOW
CLICK HERE
TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE.

Deadline to sign up is
10.00am on Thursday 5 June.

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
19-23 May	Primary Moderation @ St Peter's Primary	Primary Leaders
Friday 26 June	Deadline to complete Climate Action Plan outline information for Central Estates Team. Click here to access the form you need to complete.	Headteachers, SBMs & OMs
Tuesday 8 July	Operational Away Day	SBMs & OMs



KEY LINKS

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)



Annual Planner 2025/26

Click to view the Annual Planner for
next academic year (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