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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing the introduction this week as Gary is, along with other colleagues, on a school improvement visit at one of our secondary schools. Last week he wrote about the culture of school improvement within Lighthouse Schools Partnership, and “what it means to be **working together** in the complex relationships of a multi-academy trust.” and that focus of collaboration continues.

Over the past few weeks the Central Team has been hosting a number of welcome events to those who are new to the Trust - we have been running sessions for all new staff to talk about our Trust’s vision and the ways we develop and invest in our staff, the final session is taking place at Chew Valley School on Tuesday 21 October. Today (Wednesday) we are hosting our new headteachers in the Central Team offices to talk about how we work together effectively on a practical day to day level around key operational areas. These sessions are important opportunities to support our sense of belonging as well as to understand the roles we play as individuals within our wider organisation.

As I was proof-reading this week’s edition of the bulletin, I also noticed that at least two articles contain materials which have involved colleagues working together to develop strategies and documents to support others in the Trust.

Whilst these thoughts may initially read as a list of events held or tasks completed, it highlighted to me how embedded collaboration is within LSP. The strength of our Trust lies in our ability to support one another. Working together spreads the load but also brings fresh perspectives, shared solutions, and a sense of solidarity that makes tough moments more manageable. Together, we’re more resilient and more effective.

One of our Trust values is: “**We achieve more through collaboration and professional generosity.**” and collaboration with others in the wider education sector is also very important allow us to develop.

Gary, Louise Malik and Adele Haysom (Chair of Trustees) are attending the [Confederation of School Trusts \(CST\) annual conference](#) tomorrow and Friday. Key speakers include Bridget Philipson MP and Sir Martyn Oliver as well as opportunities to learn from and network with others from Trusts across the UK. CST’s aim of “*advocate, connect, support: working towards a better education system for England’s children*” echoes many of our values, as we all try and improve the experiences and outcomes for our children and young people.

Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration

Upcoming Headteachers' Meetings

The next full LSP Headteachers' Meeting will take place on Thursday 6 November at Nailsea Baptist Church (BS48 2DS) from 8.30am. Car sharing is encouraged, otherwise you can park on surrounding roads/in local car parks (but please ensure you read parking restrictions/limits).

The agenda for this meeting will be circulated in due course.

For those primary leaders who are undertaking Maximising Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA/Learning Partners) training in the afternoon (from 1.00pm) lunch will be provided, and the venue for this session has been moved to Nailsea Baptist Church so you do not need to rush between meetings.

Also, due to the TLAC day at Ashton Gate on Thursday 13 November, the Primary Heads' Meeting on Thursday 4 December has been cancelled.

School Financial Situation - Template Communications

As part of the [Financial Communications Plan](#), we have created a number of template letters for schools, which can be adapted (highlighted sections) and shared by Headteachers to help inform your school communities of your current financial situation. The letters include ways in which school stakeholders can help, and have been written to encourage positive participation and support to address the difficult situation many schools (both in LSP and across the UK) are facing. They can be personalised (highlighted sections) to include specific ways of support which would be particularly beneficial to your school.

The template letters have been uploaded to [Folder](#) (*LSP Communications\LSP News Bulletin\2025-26\Template Communications - financial situations*) and written for:

- Parents/carers
- Staff
- Contractors/suppliers

We would recommend sending these letters out before more detailed information connected to your budgets (which could be changes to staff or class structures, curriculum offer etc) are announced - so most likely during Term 2. Hopefully then your communities will understand the landscape, and why new ways of working or structures are required.

If you have any questions about these template communications please do not hesitate to contact [Eleanor Capel-Davies](#), Head of Administration.

Admissions 2027-28 - Oversubscription Criteria

A reminder that any proposed changes to your admissions oversubscription criteria should be submitted to the LSP Central Team via lgbreturns@lsp.org.uk by the end of this term (Friday 24 October).

Local Governing Bodies are able to review and request changes to your oversubscription criteria for September 2027-28 onwards.

Any changes will be considered by the Board of Trustees in November (2025). We will be consulting on all admission arrangements for 2027-28 in December 2025, and once this has taken place no further changes can be made.

If you have any questions relating to this please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).

Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration

Primary Phase Education Strategy 2025/26

Over the last year we have worked with a group of Primary Headteachers to codify our Trust approach to delivering a high quality education in the primary phase.

Our newly published [Primary Phase Educational Strategy](#) sits alongside the Trust School Improvement Strategy to describe how we work in our primary schools to deliver on our ambition to deliver the highest possible academic outcomes that we have committed to achieving by 2027. This document is for existing senior leaders, governors and trustees as well as those from outside of the Trust who want to know how we work.

Neil Lankester, Director of Primary Education

BY 2027 IN THE PRIMARY PHASE



90% of our pupils are secure readers for their age from GLD to KS2



80% of pupils achieve the combined expected standard in reading, writing and maths by the end of KS2



15% of pupils achieve the combined greater depth standard in reading, writing and maths by the end of KS2



Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils are in-line with non-disadvantaged pupils nationally

Support Staff Pay Award 2025

As part of the agreement of 3.2% on all pay rates with effect from April 2025, the NJC agreed that from 1 April 2026, Spinal Column Point (SCP) 2 will be permanently deleted from the NJC pay spine. This is going to be fully implemented by the Trust, although it does not impact the three schools which transferred to LSP from DBAT.

For North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset schools, the grade JG1C will remain, but the only SCP available will be SCP 3 from April 2026. The same will apply to Horfield BG4.

The Central Finance Team will make this change to the IMP Master Scenario on Tuesday 4 November so that any impact on budgets will be included in October forecasting. In the short term, we will need to retain SCP 2 in IMP but amend the pay rate to be the same as SCP 3 from 1 April 2026. This will ensure that pay scales are not removed from employee records on IMP. After April 26, we will be able to remove SCP 2 but there may be some manual adjustment needed on staff records. We will, of course, advise schools if any action is required at the appropriate time.

Consultation on school funding arrangements for 2026-27 for schools in Bristol

Bristol City Council have [issued a consultation](#) that sets out proposals relating to the implementation of changes to the schools funding regime for 2026-2027 for mainstream schools.

Due to delays in funding announcements for 2026-27, this consultation focuses on the principles of the schools funding formula in line with the National Funding Formula (NFF) policy of the Department for Education (DfE) and is required in order to help inform the Schools' Forum and Local Authority decisions to be made in respect to the 2026/27 financial year. You will see that the timeframe for the consultation is tight and that electronic responses will be required by **Thursday 6 November 2025** to fit with Schools' Forum, and their Finance Sub-Group meetings. The Central Team will draft a response on behalf of all schools in Bristol and share it in next week's bulletin (22 October). Please feel free to share your views on the draft response before we submit it to Bristol on Thursday 6 November.

If you wish to make your own response, please send your completed consultation response to BristolDSGmailbox@bristol.gov.uk. Bristol City Council are keen to obtain as many responses as possible to ensure they capture and consider all of your views and options for 2026/27. They request no more than one response per school and responses from Academy Trusts will be counted on behalf of each Bristol school within the Trust. To assist where you are required to enter a tick, here's one for you to copy and paste: ✓, otherwise please enter a Y or N in the boxes if that is easier to indicate your responses where required.

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

Consultation on school funding arrangements for 2026-27 for schools in B&NES

Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) have issued a consultation that sets out proposals relating to the implementation of changes to the schools funding regime for 2026-2027 for mainstream schools. The consultation consists of a [consultation document](#), [appendix 1](#) and [appendix 2](#). Please note that any calculations included in the consultation are for illustrative purposes only.

You will see that the timeframe for the consultation is tight and that electronic responses will be required by **Friday 14 November 2025** in order that responses can be collated and reports prepared for further discussions to take place at the next planned schools forum meeting on Tuesday 2 December 2025 and, if required, for the Local Authority to submit a disapplication request to the DfE (the deadline for which is Monday 17 November 2025). The Central Team will draft a response on behalf of all schools in B&NES and share it in next week's bulletin (22 October). Please feel free to share your views on the draft response before we submit it to B&NES on the Friday 14 November 2025.

If you wish to make your own response, please complete [2026-27 BANES School Funding Consultation - Autumn 2025 Response form](#), to return your response to the 4 questions in the consultation. Please send any individual responses to SchoolsStrategic_FinanceTeam@BATHNES.GOV.UK. However, please note that B&NES will take the responses received from either representatives from maintained schools or the Trust, but will record the Trust responses as a response for all schools in the Trust. Therefore, our Trust response would be counted as a response from 6 schools in total. If 2 responses are received from an individual school and the Trust, then the Trust response will override the school response.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

PE & Sport Premium for Primary Schools

The DfE has published details of the PE & Sport Premium for primary schools for 2025-26. The calculation of the funding remains unchanged (based on pupil numbers for years 1-6 from the January 2025 census). However, schools will now be given the funding in 2 equal payments of 50% each in November 2025 and May 2026 rather than 7/12th and 5/12th as in previous years.

Further details, including reporting requirements and what the premium can (and cannot) be used for, are [available online](#).

Bromcom Migration Update

With our first school due to go live with Bromcom in under three weeks, the roll out to schools is fast approaching. Please see some important updates below.

Training

A reminder that all 'primary contacts' for the Bromcom migration should be receiving a weekly training report on a Monday, via email, from 'noreply@bromcom.efrontlearning.com'. Please ensure you are reviewing this report and reminding staff to complete their training.

This is particularly relevant for those primary schools in the first stage of migration: Churchill Primary, Blagdon Primary, Burrington Primary, St Andrew's Primary and Wrington Primary.

Anyone having problems with logging into the portal to view these reports should contact e.front@bromcom.com

If you have new members in school from September, they will need to register on the training portal themselves, following the instructions in the email from Natalie Wilcox on Thursday 4 September.

We have had a query regarding the training modules and differing roles within the schools. Headteachers and SBMs/OMs should be outlining to staff what is appropriate for their role. On the training matrix sent out to schools, each training module has a hyperlink which goes to an overview of the module and is useful for determining whether this level of detail is relevant and/or required at this time. For example, Safeguarding Leads have training suggested on the matrix but if currently all recording is undertaken within CPOMS then the safeguarding training on Bromcom may not be necessary at this point in time. It could be undertaken in the future if you decide to use the safeguarding element within Bromcom.

If you need a copy of the training matrix sent out it can be found [in Foldr](#):
School Business Managers/Trust Wide/Bromcom

Test data

For those schools who were part of the Test Sites* for Bromcom, you will all have received follow up emails from Bromcom with instructions of how to access your test site and the actions you need to take. Please ensure these checks are completed and you've accessed and reviewed the site so that any issues can be addressed before the migration is rolled out to all schools.

(*Churchill Primary, Backwell Junior, West Leigh Infants, Portishead Primary, Bishop Sutton, Backwell School, Chew Valley School and Gordano School).

Risk Registers

This is a polite reminder that, as per the Annual Planner, Risk Registers should be reviewed by your Local Governing Body (LGB) and any amendments made to the live copy in the 'Business Continuity, Cyber Security and Risk Registers' channel on MS before the end of Term 1 (**Friday 24 October**). This task was also included on the Term 1 template LGB agenda.

Please ensure that the table at the bottom of the risk register has been updated to reflect the date of your Term 1 review.

Your Risk Register also needs to be reviewed again in Term 3 and Term 5.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact [Trust Services](#).



Clerks' Appraisal

Thank you to all those who have completed the questionnaire for me regarding feedback for your Clerk. Its really important we have this feedback so we can celebrate the work they do as well as develop an effective CPD programme.

If you have not yet done this, please ensure you have [completed the form](#) by 5.00pm on Monday 3 November.

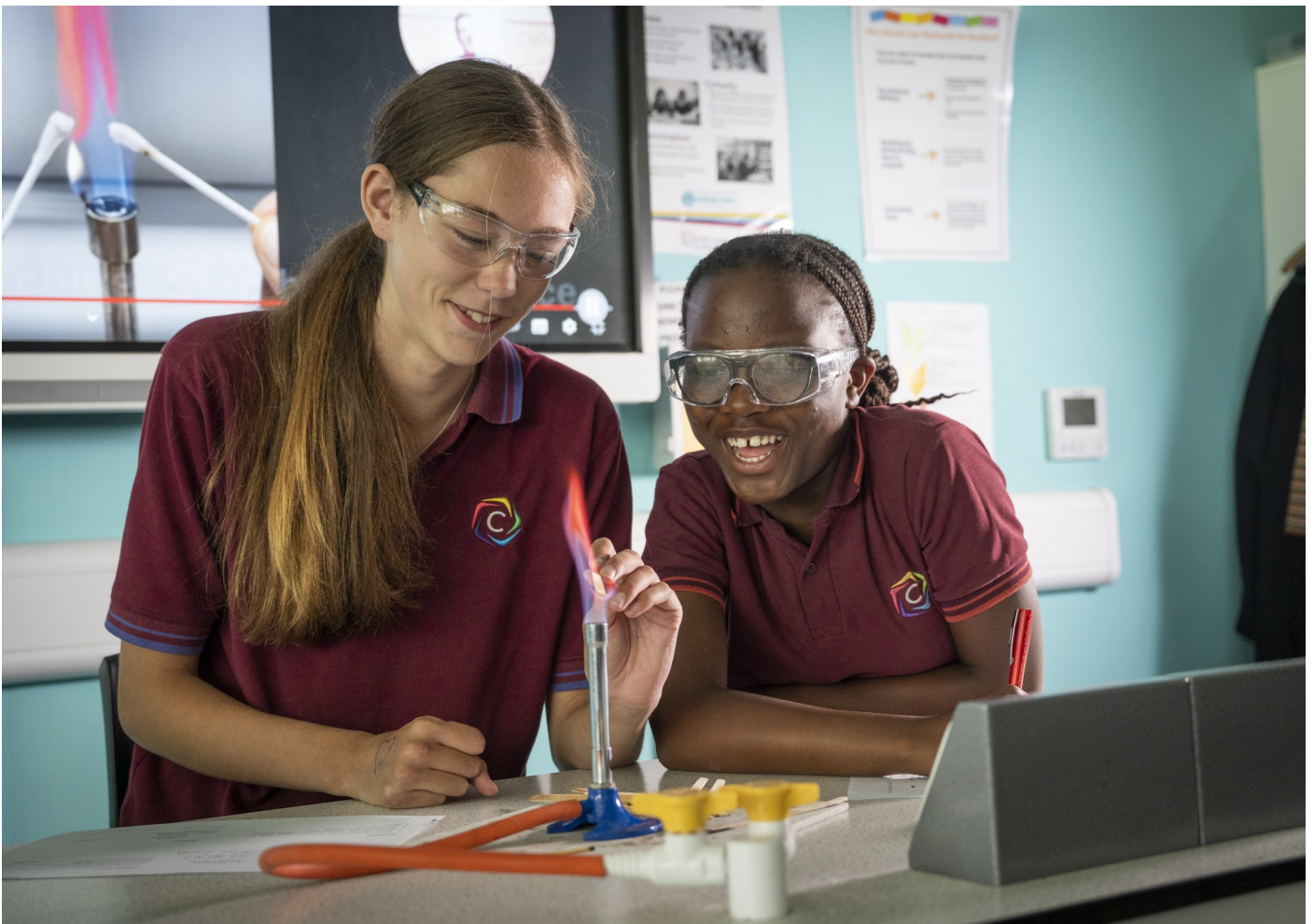
Confidential Minutes and Extraordinary LGBs

Updated information on how to minute confidential parts of a meeting as well as calling an extraordinary meeting are now on [SharePoint in LSP Governance](#).

Reminder: Bath and Wells Diocese Clerks' Forum

A reminder that the upcoming Clerks' Forum for the Bath and Wells Diocese is due to take place on Tuesday 21 October, 6.00–7.30pm, via Zoom. The agenda for the session includes SI-AMS monitoring & reporting, complaints, and understanding the Church School Foundation.

To register your place at the [Clerks' Forum, click here](#).



Primary Geography Curriculum Training Session 2

Thank you to everyone who attended the second session training session for the geography curriculum relaunch. The [recording of the session is here](#) for anyone who was not able to attend and is in the tranche 1 group.



LSP Primary Writing Units Briefing - Tuesday 21 October

We are looking forward to sharing the new writing units for next term (highlighted yellow) at the upcoming Primary Writing Units Briefing, on **Tuesday 21 October, 3.45–4.15pm**.

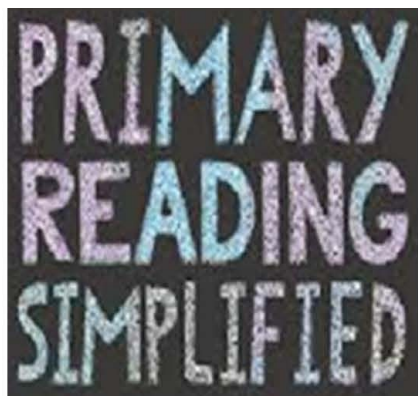
Please ask staff to [book here](#).

Aut 2:							
	Words / Captions	Y1: Narrative sentences	Y2: Poetry	Y3: Format report	Poetry	Y5: Narrative (Science fiction)	Y6: Diary Entry

The previous units have been updated so please ensure teachers are accessing these units via the LSP Primary Curriculum SharePoint: *LSP Primary Curriculum/ Writing/ 2025*

Primary Reading Simplified with Christopher Such

The English Hub will be hosting a series of twilight training with Christopher Such. Please [click here to download the poster](#) below to share with relevant staff (Phonics and Reading Leads).



**Unlocking
Excellence**
English Hub at St Peter's School

Christopher Such: Primary Reading Simplified

Join Christopher Such and our English Hub team to explore how to lay the foundations for reading development. Learn effective approaches to organising classroom instruction and understand how to build a reading curriculum and nurture a reading culture. Based on Chris's latest book 'Primary Reading Simplified', this will be an online series of twilight training.

Dates: 13th November, 4th December, 15th January

Time: 3:45 – 5pm

**Unlocking
Excellence**
English Hub at St Peter's School

Funded by

Department
for Education

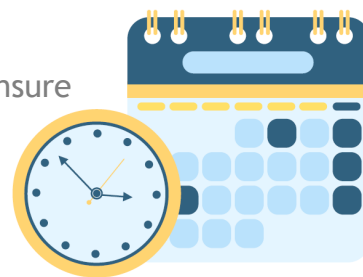
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

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 2025-26 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 20 October 2.15pm	Change Management Process Webinar Click here to sign up for this webinar.	Heads, SBMs and HR Leads
TERM 2		
Monday 10 November 3.30-4.30pm	Primary Priority Pupils Network Online via Teams	Primary Priority Pupil Leads
Wednesday 12 November 3.30-4.30pm	Secondary Priority Pupils Network Online via Teams	Secondary Priority Pupil Leads
Monday 17 November 8.30-11.30am	Primary English Network @ St Peter's Primary	Primary English Leads
Monday 17 November 1.00-4.00pm	Church Schools Network @ St Peter's Primary	Church School Leaders
Wednesday 19 November 3.30-4.00pm	Secondary Raising Standards Network. Online via Teams (link to be sent from Natalie Wilcox)	Secondary T&L Leads
<p><i>Dates later into November/December to be added in due course.</i> Click here to view the full CPD programme for 2025-26.</p>		

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 15 October	Deadline for feedback and responses to Finance, Reserves and Pay Policy consultations.	All
Friday 24 October 2025	Deadline for Teacher and Leadership Performance Development (Appraisals) to be completed.	Heads & SBMs
Friday 31 October 2025	Deadline for Support Staff Appraisals to be completed.	Heads & SBMs
Monday 3 November 2025	INSET day for all LSP Primary Schools	All
Friday 7 November 2025, 10:00 am	Deadline for schools to return teaching and leadership pay progression spreadsheets to the HR Secure Team channel.	Heads, SBMs & HR Leads



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 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