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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

This Monday morning at 10.00am was the first moment that the phone could have rung to tell a school that it would be inspected under the new Ofsted framework. The call came for Burrington! That is not the surprise that it might seem: Burrington was due, we are very confident in the provision there and we had some early dialogue with Ofsted to confirm our openness to hosting an early inspection. I'm very grateful indeed to Sarah Joskey for being our first Headteacher to engage with the new Ofsted methodology and I am certain that we will all benefit from the experience. Best wishes to Sarah and the team at Burrington - there is much for Ofsted to celebrate and I am sure that they will do so.

A less stressful visit takes place at Yatton Schools today (Wednesday) when Joe Wicks returns to the schools. Joe came to Yatton just after the fire in 2023 to raise morale at a difficult time. He promised to return when the building had been completed, so it is great news that he keeps his promises. You will see later in the bulletin some pictures of their new Infants' building. It is really beautiful and a tribute to the people who have worked together to design and realise the project, not least Headteacher at Yatton Schools, Jo Keeble supported by Helen Clarke and Sarah Howard.

I'm looking forward enormously to our Teach Like A Champion day with Doug Lemov tomorrow (Thursday). Despite the slightly alarming requirement that we come "willing to participate", it should be a real moment for our leaders of Teaching and Learning to sharpen their vision for precise, adaptive and impactful teaching. We need this 'stepping up' in pedagogy to deliver the gains from our strong curriculum into outcomes for our pupils, especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. Last week I mentioned that Ofsted had moved its focus from curriculum to teaching, so have we and the one builds on the other.

As ever,

Gary

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



Anticipated Ofsted visits 2025-26

Following the most recent training at Headteacher's Meeting please find attached [a list of schools in the OFSTED Window](#) this year. Remember all dates are approximately from.

Neil Lankester, Director of Primary Education

DfE School Uniform Guidance

The DfE have published [updated statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms](#) containing both statutory and draft statutory guidance.

The draft guidance (presented in text boxes) relates to the proposed limit on compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit. It is intended that this limit is introduced from September 2026.

Schools are strongly advised to act now in readiness for 2026, including making any necessary changes to uniform policies and working with suppliers to resolve any contractual implications.

LSP Christmas card designs

We would be grateful for submission of festive Christmas card artwork from children across the trust (both Primary and Secondary) to use in our Trust Christmas cards and on social media later this term - we have previously had some lovely images submitted.

If you have any designs you could submit to us please [email them to Leah Evans, Communications Officer](#), by Monday 1 December.



Policy Publication - Finance and Reserves Policies

Following consultation the Trustee Finance Committee signed off the Finance Policy and Reserves Policy at their meeting yesterday (Tuesday 11 November).

Please note that the Finance Policy was amended (section 84) following consultation to ensure it is inline with updated expectations in the Academies Handbook.

A copy of these policies can be found on [our website](#) and on the LSP Policies section of [Foldr](#).

There is no further action for schools on these policies—please just ensure you are referring to the latest versions if needs be.

Update: Yatton Infants School

We're pleased to be able to share some photos of the new Infants' building at Yatton School, prior to the official reopening later this term. The building opened to staff and pupils last week and is a testament to the hard work of all involved in the project.



DPO Supportive Audit 2024/2025 - Follow Up Actions

To support schools in achieving Data Protection (DPO) compliance, we are in the process of adding a new form within iAM Compliant which lists the 'Specific Actions' to be completed by each school. The actions were identified by the DPO auditor, and we have attached a copy of the corresponding audit report within the Form for reference. The DPO actions within iAM can be accessed in the same way as those for Health and Safety Audits and Fire Risk Assessments.

For schools whose DPO Supportive Audit will take place later this term, the actions identified will be added to iAM Compliant in due course.

Having the DPO actions within iAM gives better visibility of compliance and progress, and facilitates reporting to stakeholders. Each school will have a follow up call with One West (the DPO auditor) in Term 3 or 4, to review progress against your actions.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the [Trust Services](#) team.

Catering Contract - local suppliers

To combat the increases to minimum wage and the inflationary increases to food costs we have relaxed our stance on procuring from local supply chains. Whilst Aspens have continued to use local suppliers for fruit, vegetables and bread they have been utilising the national supply chains for meat and dairy to keep costs down. We are in discussions with Aspens regarding catering budgets from April 2026 and as part of those discussions we will need to consider our stance on local suppliers.

Aspens have advised us that if we were to go back to obtaining our meat and dairy locally then we would see the net food costs increase from £1.13 to £1.15 per meal for Primary schools and £1.33 to £1.35 per Secondary and duty meals.

Please give this matter some thought and discuss with the relevant stakeholders, we will pick this up at the catering meeting in January 2026 and agree a way forward.

iHASCO training courses

Access to iHASCO courses will cease on 12/12/25. If you have staff who need to complete either the **Safer Recruitment** or **Health & Safety for managers and supervisors** course then please email trustservices@lsp.org.uk with their name and email addresses.

TM44 certification (air-conditioning)

You may have received communication from Zenergi informing you that the school's TM44 certification for air-conditioning is out of date with an offer to complete this for you. Please disregard their email as ESOS have been commissioned to complete this for all schools that require it. This service is paid for through the Core Service Charge.

Bromcom Update

Following the first school's migration a couple of key points to share are as follows:

- Please keep checking that key users in your school have undertaken the necessary training. This will ensure some familiarity with the system before you receive your live handover and will ensure time with the Bromcom team is spent effectively.
- Have a think about the 'roles' that you will need to set up, such as Admin Officer, Headteacher, Data Manager for example.. and what permissions they currently have in SIMS. The same roles are available in Bromcom but you will need to ensure permissions are the same to ensure continuity for the user
- For the Primary Contact at each school - ensure there is sufficient time set aside on your 'Live System Hand Over' date so you can successfully work through the actions required and set up users. This is crucial preparation for the 'Go Live' date.

A big thank you to Churchill Primary for going first and for being so proactive and flexible with their migration.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Jo Beavan](#), Trust Services Officer, if you have any queries.

Contractor Safeguarding Information

Just a gentle reminder of the process for schools for checking DBS details for centrally organised contractors:

All DBS lists are stored [in Foldr](#): *School Business Managers, Trust Wide, 'Contractor Safeguarding Information'*.

When a contractor arrives to undertake works, schools can check the contractor's photo ID against the names held within Foldr. All checks on these contractors have been undertaken centrally.

Submission of minutes and LGB updates to the Central Team

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

Please can you ensure that, by **9.00am on Friday 28 November**:

- 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. A reminder that Trustees can make re-appointments in advance (for example reappoint in December for a term of office which will expire in February 2026).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email [Sarah Cran, Lead on Governance](#)

Reminder: Completion of Statutory Paperwork

A polite reminder to all governors that completing your statutory paperwork is a key part of your governance duties. This includes annual declaration forms, training confirmations, or other required documentation.

Please ensure that all requested paperwork is completed and returned promptly, without the need for reminders or follow-up from your Clerk. Timely completion helps your Board remain legally compliant and ensures we can focus our time and energy on supporting the school's strategic priorities.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to effective governance.

Clerks' Appraisal

Thank you to everyone one who has completed the online form around clerks appraisal.

The process is now well underway and I hope it is proving useful.

Sarah Cran, Lead on Governance

Maintaining an up-to-date Risk Register

Governors are reminded of the importance of ensuring that the school's Risk Register is reviewed and updated regularly (this is scheduled to be reviewed by your board three times a year as per the Annual Planner). **Please ensure the review date is recorded in the table at the bottom of the risk register.**

The risk register is a key tool in effective governance and safeguarding, helping the board to identify, monitor, and mitigate potential risks to the school's operations, finances, and reputation.

It is essential that the register accurately reflects current risks and the measures in place to manage them. Regular review and timely updates enable the governing board to make informed decisions and demonstrate robust oversight.

Any amendments should be made to the live version held in 'Business Continuity, Cyber Security and Risk Registers' Microsoft team.

Trustees regularly review and analyse individual school risk registers. If you need further support [please get in touch](#).



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
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 Online via Teams	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
Monday 24 November 8.30-11.30am	Primary Geography Network @ St Peter's Primary	Primary Geography Leads
Monday 24 November 1.00-4.00pm	Primary SEND Network Online via Teams	Primary SENDCOs
Monday 24 November 3.30-4.45pm	Primary Assessment Network Online via Teams	Primary Assessment Leads
Wednesday 26 November 3.30-4.15pm	Secondary Attendance Network Online via Teams	Secondary Attendance Leads

Upcoming CPD webinars for Governors

Please see below upcoming CPD sessions available for Governors. Clerks, please share this with all Governors in your LGB.

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LINK
<p>Monday 1 December from 5.30pm</p>	<p>Financial Reporting for Governors*</p> <p>The aims of this session are to give governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an understanding of the financial framework and governor responsibilities • an awareness of the budget setting and monitoring timetable • the knowledge required to in to interpret and challenge financial monitoring reports from IMP <p><i>*Please note that this is a session that we run every Autumn. It is suitable for new governors responsible for finance or those wanted a refresher.</i></p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>
<p>Thursday 4 December from 5.30pm</p>	<p>SEND and Inclusion</p> <p>A session on SEND and Inclusion within LSP, aimed at enabling LGBs to offer support and challenge, as well as understand Trust-wide priorities and focus on this important area.</p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>



Lighthouse Research Community 2025/26 - Join In!

Our fully funded Research Community is relaunching for 2025/26, with three groups open to teachers and leaders across the Trust. No prior research experience is needed—just interest and enthusiasm.

Participants will plan a small research project supported by University of Bristol colleagues and work towards the *Educational Research and Inquiry Certificate (ERIC)* from the Chartered College of Teaching.

All costs are covered (including CCT membership, ERIC enrolment, and a day's cover). Places are limited to 30.

Find full details and register your interest on our website ([Lighthouse Research Community](https://www.lighthouse-research.com)) or email ResearchCommunity@lsp.org.uk.

Headteachers, please can we ask you to forward this information to your teaching staff and display the poster below ([you can download the poster here](#)) in staffrooms.



LIGHTHOUSE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Places available for 2025/26

Lighthouse Schools Partnership and the University of Bristol have been working together to develop the **Lighthouse Research Community**.

Benefitting from the expertise and resources of Bristol's School of Education, and working towards certification from the Chartered College of Teaching, the aim of Lighthouse Research Community is to support staff to engage in practitioner research.

We are looking for LSP staff to join three Research Community groups for 2025/26:

- Teachers - North (Portishead and Bristol hubs)
- Teachers - South (Backwell, Chew and Churchill hubs)
- Middle and Senior Leaders

People can be a member of whichever group suits them based on their work or home address or job role. There is no expectation of previous research experience.

All member costs, including membership of the Chartered College of Teaching and enrolment in the certificates will be funded by a grant obtained by the University of Bristol. In addition, time off will be granted to all members to attend a fully-funded Writing Retreat.

FIND OUT MORE:

Head to our website, or come along to our Information Session to find out more about the programme:

When: Thursday 20 November, 4pm
Where: Chew Valley School, BS40 8QB

[WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/RESEARCHCOMMUNITY](https://www.lsp.org.uk/researchcommunity)

WE BELIEVE...

...that teachers can and do craft educational innovation through practice and have the potential to be a powerful community for generating research evidence and insight.



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



University of
BRISTOL



Chartered College
of Teaching

Diocese of Bath & Wells Online Collective Worship 2025/26

The Diocese of Bath and Wells are trialling online Collective Worship via Zoom, led by Bishop Michael. Diocese of Bath and Wells Church Schools are invited to join the following dates:

- 9 December 2025
- 17 March 2026
- 8 July 2026

We ask that Schools be online from 9am and the worship will begin at 9.15 and last 15-20 minutes. [N.B. Children do not need to be in the hall at 9am]

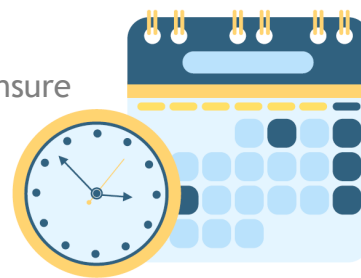
Sign up:

If you are interested in signing your school up to attend, please find [further information here](#).

[Book your schools' place here](#)



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
Friday 28 November	Deadline for submitting LGB minutes and changes to LGB to Central Team	Clerks



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