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Introduction

This week's bulletin has a massive amount happening. I'd like to focus in on just one element, which is to highlight our Trustees' decision to create an Annual Support Fund through holding back a proportion of the LGPS revaluation windfall. Heads will recall that I talked about this when we met in January. Since then I have been opining the value of trust membership at the consultation meeting at SMRT in Bristol. I drew on the Diocese of Salisbury's '5 Advantages' for Trust membership and I reproduce it below.

1. **The Collaborative Advantage:** a reservoir of experience and talent, 'phone a friend' and networks.
2. **The Improvement Advantage:** dedicated school improvement support and capacity, shared curriculum and resources.
3. **The Systems Advantage:** talent mapping, central team support, contract negotiations, recruitment benefits, cross-trust roles and opportunities.
4. **The Resilience-Protective Advantage:** financial resilience - the big boat can ride the high waves, the trust can flood in capacity when needed, a structure of discipline.
5. **The Civic Advantage:** participate in the eco-system that is now made up of trusts, stakeholder engagement at a regional level, the trust as an anchor institution - a player in city/county/diocese.

I hope that these things are all true of our Trust. Of my points above the one that this year's events have really driven home for me is the Resilience-Protective Advantage. Frankly if we can't ride the waves better or flood in capacity, there is little point in us being in a trust. Creating the Annual Support Fund gives me more capacity to help. A number of our schools are already seeing that help in spades, and so they should. Thank you for your feedback and dialogue on the principle of moving forward in this way. I think that we lived up to two of our values—community and generosity.

Finally, it is [National School Governors' Awareness Day](#) tomorrow (Thursday). Our Governors and Trustees are another wonderful example of our community and generosity values in practice. I know we are all very grateful for all they do. As well as thanking our governors for their important work, it might also be a good reason to spotlight the benefits of support school governance in your school newsletters. There is a dedicated page on the [LSP website](#), for those who wish to find out more. We might sow the seed for a future harvest!

Wishing you all a good half-term.

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive Officer

Primary Logistics for Friday 13 February

A reminder about the plans in place for many of our primary colleagues on Friday (13 February - trust training day) at St Peters Primary, Portishead.

All those scheduled to attend have already been emailed the logistical information they need directly by the Lighthouse Learning Team. Headteachers were [also sent, last week, some slides](#) to be shown at your staff meetings.

It is looking to be a busy day! To ensure the day runs as smoothly as possible, and so staff really benefit from their sessions, it is important that all instructions are followed.

If you have any questions please email the [Lighthouse Learning](#) Team.

Operations Team Meeting - 9 February 2026

Thank you to all of the School Business Managers and Office Managers that were able to attend our Operations Team Meeting earlier this week.

Please find details of [topics discussed here](#). For those of you that were unable to attend, you can access a [recording of the session here](#).

A reminder that you can also access the recording [links for previous meetings here](#).

Farewell and thank you

We are sad to say that Debbi Buss, School Business Manager at Golden Valley School, leaves us at the end of this term. Debbi has been at Golden Valley for over 10 years and has played a key role in the success of the school.

Debbi has always cared passionately about her role, the school and the children. She has worked incredibly hard and has ensured a strong operational backbone for the school, building strong and supportive relationships with everyone that she works with. We will miss Debbi hugely but wish her every success in her new role.

Thank you Debbi from everyone at LSP.



Bristol Futures School Event

Bristol City Council is leading a strategy called Bristol Future to transform the experience and opportunities for young people in the city. The ambitious aim is to break the link between deprivation and outcomes.

The launch event is on 26th February 2026 at Mshed.

All Bristol Headteachers are asked to attend, please register here: [Bristol Future All Schools Event](#).

Reminder - The Beacon Parents' Edition



A reminder to please circulate with parents/carers the latest 'Parents' Edition' of The Beacon - which includes a range of news stories and updates from across the Trust.

This is the link you need to use/share: [LSP Parents Newsletter Winter 2026](#)

We have written a short paragraph (with the link included) which you are welcome to use:

LSP Newsletter - The Beacon - Parents Edition

As you may be aware, our school is part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) - a Trust of 34 schools in the local area. The LSP has a parent/carer newsletter, called The Beacon, which is for anyone with children within a LSP school.

Please [click here to read the latest version](#) of this newsletter which includes lots of exciting news and updates from across the trust.

We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting things that have been happening across LSP.

Finally, we have also published a link to this Parents' Beacon on our social media and would be very grateful if you could share this with your followers as well by re-sharing.

Leah Evans, Communications Officer

Lloyds Banking Group - Free Careers & Employability Opportunities

Lloyds Bank are currently offering a range of free resources and events designed to support young people as they prepare for life after school or college.

Please feel free to share these widely with students, parents, carers and careers teams.

1. National Apprenticeship Week - Explore LBG Apprenticeships

- Hands-on experience, real-world learning and future-ready skills
- Over 1,300 apprentices across 30+ disciplines (data, digital, business, finance & more)
- Register student interest: [Apprenticeships | Lloyds Banking Group Talent](#)

2. SkillsFest Live & Upcoming Events

Lloyds recently hosted Skills Fest Live, reaching more than 900 young people and showcasing alternative career pathways and early careers opportunities at Lloyds Banking Group. The event gave students and parents the chance to learn about apprenticeships and post-school options, explore careers at LBG, and hear from apprentices, university partners and career experts.

They also have several free upcoming events for students:

Virtual Work Experience

An introduction to careers at Lloyds Banking Group.

[Lloyds Banking Group Early Careers Events | Eventbrite](#)

SkillsFest Edinburgh

A live skills-focused and employability event for young people.

[Lloyds Banking Group Early Careers Events | Eventbrite](#)

“All About T Levels” Session

Helping students understand T Levels, industry placements and future career opportunities.

[All about T levels Tickets, Thu, Feb 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

All resources and events are free, accessible and designed to help young people build confidence, gain skills and explore meaningful career pathways.

Core Services Charge 2026-27

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 4 February to consider the proposals, amended to reflect some of the feedback received. The Trustees agreed all of the proposals for the 2026-27 Core Services Charge put to them as detailed below:

1. **Centralisation of Additional Compliance Activity Costs**
From September 2026, a wider set of compliance related costs will move from individual school budgets into the Central Services Budget.
2. **Introduction of a Pooled LGPS Employer Contribution Rate**
From April 2026, all schools will adopt a pooled employer contribution rate of 17.6% for LGPS. IMP will be updated with the revised rate over the February half term break.
3. **Movement of LGPS Deficit Payments into the Core Services Charge**
From September 2026, LGPS deficit payments will be centralised and funded through the Core Services Charge.

Schools will fully retain the reduced LGPS deficit payments for the period April-August 2026. The Central Team will provide an updated spreadsheet so that schools have their total pension deficit value for 2025-26 for forecasting.

4. **Establishment of an Annual Support Fund**
From **September 2026**, to establish an annual support fund.
For 2026-27 they agreed to set the value of the fund at £500k. The value will be determined on an annual basis as part of the Core Services Charge proposals
The fund will be created by top slicing the savings generated from the LGPS revaluation.

The Central Services Budget will contribute the same proportion of its own LGPS savings to the fund as schools. This will slightly reduce the Core Services Charge % for each school and the final figures will be issued alongside the budget assumptions guidance on 25 February

Any individual school or federation negatively financially impacted in 2026-27 by these changes will receive a compensatory allocation equivalent to the value of their loss for 2026-27 only.

The Trustees have identified this fund as an opportunity to make a positive difference. In some cases, this will mean supporting schools with short term additional pressures or, for example, enabling schools with surplus places to provide an appropriate educational support structure. The Trustees are also keen that this fund be available to support innovation, collaboration and sharing good practice that could benefit pupils across our schools.

Continued....

Core Services Charge 2026-27

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We will now draft some proposals on the operation of the support fund and plan to issue it for consultation on Wednesday 22 April. Trustees will take a decision on Wednesday 10 June. However, we will learn from the use of the fund and adapt our arrangements accordingly. We would welcome your feedback in due course to enable us to do so.

5. **Approval of the Updated Core Services Charge Policy**

The Trustees have approved the revised Core Services Charge Policy, including amendments made following consultation. The updated policy will also be issued on Wednesday 25 February once the finalised Core Services Charge % has been calculated.

*Louise Malik,
Chief Financial and Operating Officer*



Changes to making cheque deposits at Lloyds Bank

Lloyds have advised that Postal Cheque services have ceased from 31st December 2025 as the Post Office would no longer accept cheques after that date.

Your options for processing of the cheques are to use an alternative branch (if viable) or to forward them to the LSP Central Team Offices where the Central Finance Team will deposit them using our Online Banking App which allows the team to photograph the cheque and deposit digitally.

Due to this change, we would also suggest exploring how/why you are still receiving cheques and encourage individuals or companies to pay using BACS or your online parent platform as a more efficient alternative.

The Post Office should still be accepting cash, although once again cash transactions are discouraged. For irregular, smaller amounts we would ask you to persevere with this and if necessary, our Lloyds Relationship Manager will ask their Post Office Team to liaise with any branches you may get resistance from. Please ensure you use a pre-printed paying in book if using this method.

Budget Forecast as at 31/12/25

Thank you to School Business Managers, and any other staff involved, for your December budget forecast submission for the 2025-26 financial year. The Central Team have now checked all forecasts for reasonableness and have reported the collated information to the Board of Trustees Finance Committee. The feedback from our quality assurance checks can [be found on Foldr](#):

School Business Managers- Trust Wide - Information for 2025-26 Budgets - Monitoring Feedback - Submission based on 31.12.25

Please enter your LA and DfE number to find the information for your school. Please ensure that this feedback is reported to your next LGB meeting. Please be aware that we do not have sufficient information to determine whether your projections are completely accurate or not. Checks have been carried out for reasonableness and information has been provided to indicate any areas that may need further investigation to ensure that your projections are accurate. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the [Central Finance Team](#).



Lloyds Commercial Cardholders - Importance of Card Registration

Making sure your details are up to date helps keep your credit card account secure. We would like to remind all cardholders that you should have registered the credit card on the Lloyds Commercial Card Portal upon receipt in line with the [LSP Finance Policy](#).

The Commercial Card Portal will allow you to update your personnel details anytime using CCIS, the Lloyds Commercial card management service - [please use this guide here](#).

Unfortunately, the Central Finance Team do not have access to your personal details through the administration link and are unable to change any details upon your behalf.

In addition, to keeping your personal details up to date you can view recent transactions and identify any fraudulent activity immediately

If you suspect fraud:

Call Lloyds Commercial Cards on 0345 602 9535 (+44 1908 049026 from abroad) 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am to 4.30pm, Saturday and also email the details to lspfinance@lsp.org.uk. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all fraud should be reported to the Central Team.

Further details of the trusts Anti-Fraud policy can be found in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership [Business Ethics Policy](#).

We have a number of requests weekly to check credit limits, often due to the card holder not registering the card. Whilst we are able to do this, it does mean that we are unable to identify any fraudulent transactions as we are unaware of the genuine transactions made by the school. Please protect the school and the card by registering it upon receipt.



Fraud Awareness: Musical Instrument Donation

We have received notification of a new recurring fraudulent scheme targeting education establishments; please take the time to read the following report from the DfE highlighting the fraudsters method, how you can protect yourself and the school and also where to report these attempts:

The DfE have been made aware of a recurring fraud scheme involving fraudsters contacting education providers claiming they wish to donate a piano that belonged to their late spouse. Once contact is established, criminals use social engineering techniques to persuade staff to pay courier or transport fees for the piano's delivery. The piano is never delivered.

Reports of this fraud are being received at a local level; however, it is likely that the fraud will be occurring nationally.

This is an example of phishing or advanced fee fraud.

Key Warning Signs

- Unsolicited offers of piano or high value item donations.
- Requests for payment of courier, transport or handling fees.
- Communication conducted primarily via email.

What to Do

- Do not make payments for delivery or courier fees linked to donations.
- Be cautious of requests that apply emotional pressure or urgency.
- Report suspicious emails immediately in line with Lighthouse Schools Fraud Response Plan. If you have received an email which you're not sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk
- If you think you have been the victim of this fraud (or others), you can report this to Lighthouse Schools Partnership using the Fraud Response Plan as outlined in the Business Ethics and Pecuniary Interest Policy, this will then be reported by Lighthouse Schools Partnership upon your behalf.

As this fraud continues to re-emerge using new contact details, further attempts are likely. Remain vigilant even if the person/contact details are different.

Additional Bid Fund Allocations

We are opening the bidding process for the Additional Bid Fund allocated in the School Condition Allocation (SCA). Whilst it is important that we continue to prioritise significant condition issues, there are likely to be other projects that could have a huge impact on the outcomes or wellbeing of our pupils, or staff, that are not likely to be identified for funding for a considerable number of years.

Each year we now set aside a small proportion of our SCA funding for these more developmental projects. The amount of funding for this purpose is determined annually and will depend on the funding available and the cost of addressing the most serious condition issues in our school estate.

The funding available for 2025/26 is £60,000. SCA funding can only be used to address building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency or health and safety issues and therefore, any additional projects must also meet these criteria.

Rather than create a bureaucratic process that requires significant work for both schools and the Central Team, we would like to utilise Estates Development Plans that you should already have in place.

Schools will be able to apply for this funding for projects between £2.5k and £30k in a Primary School and £15k to £50k in a Secondary School. We will need the following information:

- Description of the project
- How your project links to your School Improvement Plan
- Whether your project links to your school Climate Action Plan or supports your wider Sustainability goals
- Estimated cost
- Impact on outcomes or wellbeing and for what group e.g. pupils, staff, community
- Proposed timescales
- Whether any other funding sources are available and what they are

If all this information is already available in your Estates Development Plan, then you will only need to provide this plan to apply for funding and a breakdown of the planned use of your devolved capital.

If the information above is not in your Estates Development Plan or provided in a supporting document your bid may not be considered.

Estates Development Plans need to have been approved by your relevant Governor / Local Governing Body (LGB) before they can be used to support this application.

Applications for this funding need to be submitted by **Friday 20 March 2026** and should be emailed to [Callum Fear, Estates Support Officer](#). The outcomes of applications will be shared by Friday 24 April 2026.

Bromcom Migration - Primary Schools

The last group of primary schools received the handover of their live Bromcom sites last week so, bar one final migration in March, all our primary schools have now migrated to Bromcom! This has been an enormous change for all involved, but schools have been fantastic at navigating the guidance and embracing the new systems. We have received lots of positive feedback from the schools who migrated before Christmas now they have had time to familiarise and look at the potential functions. Others are moving quickly into using other parts of the system to reduce separate contract costs. The last two groups to migrate are working through the third-party connections and supporting staff with using the system.

Please don't hesitate to continue to [contact Trust Services Officer Jo Beavan](#) if you need any further support during these familiarisation stages.

ParentPay Support Portal (ServiceNow)

To ensure that the connection of Bromcom to ParentPay is as smooth as possible and for any other ParentPay related issues, please ensure that your school has up to date details within the ParentPay support portal (ServiceNow). ParentPay are raising cases for the Bromcom linking so key contacts at the school need to be aware of and are receiving the case communications.

The relevant person should visit the ServiceNow portal, (link below if needed), and check the details for your school. There are instructions below advising how other staff can register if they need to.

For anyone else they would need to register:

- Go to Login Page help.parentpaygroup.com
- Click Register
- Enter the following details: First name, Last name, Business email
- Registration code: **87a09b8ef5133**
- Click Submit
- You will then receive an email to verify that your email address
- Once your email address has been verified you will receive an email with your User ID, URL to login and temporary Password (once logged in please reset your Password)

[Click here for information](#) on how to Register for ServiceNow

Data Protection Update

DPO Supportive Audit follow up calls and Report

As you are aware, each school will have a follow up call with One West (the DPO auditor) in the coming months, to review progress against the actions identified in their on-site DPO visit. There will also be a second follow up call in due course. A number of schools have already had their first follow up call (and some may have received an email summarising those discussions).

Following the first call, each school will receive a report of their progress (similar in format to the original DPO Audit Report). The report will be circulated in draft and will be updated and finalised after the second follow up call, including a new score for the year. If there are any further actions identified in the new report, we will add these to the existing Form in iAM Compliant.

Third Party Processors spreadsheet

The Third Party Processors spreadsheet remains in the General Channel within the ROPA and DIPA MS Teams, and should be a part of your regular processes related to Data Protection. To support you in completing the Third Party Processor spreadsheet, we have added a new tab named 'Guidance notes' into that spreadsheet, which includes helpful information on how best to complete each column of the main spreadsheet.

SIMS Contract Notifications

We've been made aware of some emails going directly to schools from ParentPay with regard to SIMS contracts ending. Please ignore these emails. Schools are aware that the SIMS contract ends on 31 March 2026 and the references to backups and terminations have all been dealt with by the Central Team.



National School Governors' Awareness Day 2026

Tomorrow (Thursday 12 February 2026) is National School Governors' Awareness Day, which is a great opportunity to celebrate all the school governors who give their time, efforts and dedication to children across our trust. Your guidance, support and commitment help our schools - and pupils - to flourish.

We would like to express our deepest thanks to each and every School Governor in our trust for all you do, and the difference you make every day!

Headteachers, please feel free to use the image below (available to [download here](#)) to share across social media in recognition of National School Governors' Awareness Day.



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



Thank
You

for your guidance, support and
commitment, that helps our
schools to flourish!



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2025-26 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 2 March 8.30-11.30am	Church Schools Network Online via Teams	Church School Leads
Monday 2 March 1.00-4.00pm	Primary English Network @ English Hub, St Peter's Primary School	Primary English Leads
Monday 2 March 3.30-4.45pm	Primary Assessment Network Online via Teams	Primary Assessment Leads
Monday 9 March 3.30-4.30pm	Primary Priority Pupils Network Online via Teams	Primary Priority Pupil Leads
Wednesday 11 March 3.30-4.30pm	Secondary Priority Pupils Network Online via Teams	Secondary Priority Pupil Leads
Monday 16 March 8.30-11.30am	Primary Geography Network @ English Hub, St Peter's Primary School	Primary Geography Leads
Monday 16 March 1.00-4.00pm	Primary SEND Network Online via Teams	Primary SENDCos
Reminders of the dates for late March will follow in due course		

Governance CPD: SEND Training for Governors

Thank you to those who attended the Lighthouse Learning Governance CPD session on SEND, with Debbie Coker, Director of Inclusion, last Thursday evening.

[Click here to view the recording of the session.](#)

A reminder that the full programme of Governance CPD can be found on the [LSP website](#), as well as the reminders we provide in the LSP Weekly Bulletin.

DfE training - Supporting attendance

The DfE Attendance Hubs are a great way of getting additional support if your attendance isn't where you would like it to be. If your attendance is below 95% then you should engage with the support that has been offered by registering below, this is particularly important if you are in the Ofsted window as engaging with the DfE tools is a crucial element to meeting expected standard.

Schools can receive additional support via two pathways through the programme:

1. Regional support for schools who want lighter touch support to help them make changes to their practice. Partner schools will have access to a structured attendance and behaviour CPD offer, opportunities to visit their lead school, and discuss and share practice with other schools in their hub.
2. Enhanced support for schools that want and need more concerted support to improve their school's attendance and behaviour. Partner schools will have access to 10 days of intensive leadership support over 3 terms supporting them to develop and implement an attendance and behaviour focussed action plan.

Please register your interest here: [expression of interest form](#)

Here is a link for additional information about the RISE behaviour and attendance hubs.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rise-attendance-and-behaviour-hubs-programme>



Bath and Wells Diocese Governance Training and Events

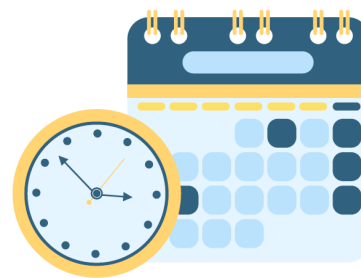
Please see the Governance Training and Forums information below, which should be shared with your schools LGB:

DATE	EVENT	BOOKING LINK
Wednesday 25 February	Clerks Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Tuesday 3 March	Trustees Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Thursday 12 March <u>or</u> Friday 13 March	School Leaders and Parish Partner Conference 2026	Further info and booking
Thursday 26 March	SIAMS for Schools	Further info and booking
Tuesday 28 April	New Chairs of Governors Training	Further info and booking
Tuesday 5 May	Church School Governance* for Renewing Foundation Governors	Further info and booking
Tuesday 12 May	Church School Governance* for new Members and Trustees	Further info and booking
Tuesday 19 May	Church School Governance* for new Foundation Governors	Further info and booking

*Church School Governance: Please note, this course is required if you are a new Foundation Governor/ Trustee or Member or if you are renewing your term as a Foundation Governor.

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).



DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Tuesday 3 March 9.00-10.30am	Operational Leadership Team Meeting	Secondary SBMs
Thursday 5 March	Primary Headteachers' Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church. (Secondary Heads will meet on another date)	Primary Heads
Thursday 12 March	Deadline to ensure that latest LGB minutes and any changes to your LGB have been submitted to Central Team.	Clerks
Monday 16 March 10.00-11.30am	Operational Team Meeting (with SBMs & OMs)	All SBMs & OMs
16 March–1 April	Spring 2 Assessment Window. Data to be uploaded to In-sight by 1 April 2026.	Primary Heads
Friday 20 March	Deadline to submit applications for SCA project funding. These are to be emailed to Callum Fear in the Central Estates Team.	Heads & 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 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