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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable half-term week. With the publication of the [Schools White Paper](#) and the accompanying [SEND Reform](#) Consultation on Monday, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what these developments might mean for us as a trust.

The White Paper addresses themes that resonate strongly with the work we are already leading:

SEND and Inclusion: The government's proposals set out a long-term ambition to build a more inclusive mainstream system supported by new national standards, strengthened training, expanded specialist services and investment at universal, targeted, and specialist levels. You will immediately see the coherence with our own vision for inclusion through universal provision, the training and development of our Learning Partners and the creation of our in-house SEND team with the training and support they offer.

Engagement and Belonging: The White Paper identifies engagement of children, families and communities as a central mission. Our own work to build schools that are truly inclusive aligns with this as does our focus on attendance and outcomes especially for disadvantaged pupils. We have still more to do here to connect more with parents and we are looking to the Reach Foundations Cradle to Career programme for inspiration. I really welcome the new pillar of accountability for Trusts that will focus on community contribution.

A more coherent, trust-based school system: It has been good to see the government's commitment to a system rooted in collaboration and with Trusts positioned as anchor institutions at the heart of their communities. Until now the present government's support for our system had been so qualified as to seem half-hearted. The White Paper describes a future in which all schools are part of strong, locally connected trusts that share expertise, deploy resources strategically, and take collective responsibility for children. This is an almost exact statement of our ambition for our Trust and it validates the work you are already doing every day to model what effective, values-led collaboration looks like.

The White Paper is in my view leading us in the right direction. We might criticise it for the length of time that it envisages taking to implement change, but for those of us who led schools through the 'Gove Reforms', we remember what that felt like and the mistakes that were made a break-neck speed. After an agonising 18 month wait, we have an education policy again and we can get behind it.

Lastly, I would like to commend Chris Hildrew for the way he led Churchill Academy & Sixth Form through a very difficult last week of term 3. Churchill experienced the death of a Year 11 pupil in the most tragic circumstances. This is the nightmare that all school leaders dread but Chris, along with his wider team, managed the situation with assurance and empathy.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Schools White Paper online event: Wednesday 25 February

Following its publication this week, the Education Secretary will be hosting a live online session, aimed at answering questions on the schools white paper - *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*. [You can read the white paper here.](#)

Schools staff are invited to join the Education Secretary for the online event **today (Wednesday 25 February)**, 4.00-5.00pm. **Please make sure you pre-register if you wish to attend:**

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

The session will provide an opportunity for those working in education to hear from the Education Secretary about the schools white paper - *Every Child Achieving and Thriving* - and what the reforms mean for different workforces. She also wants to hear from school staff and will answer a selection of questions from the live chat.

Reminder: Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting

A reminder that all Primary Headteachers will be meeting on Thursday 5 March from 8.30am at Nailsea Baptist Church.

[Click here to view the agenda.](#)

Secondary Headteachers are meeting separately this term.

North Somerset Youth Awards 2026 nominations

The North Somerset Youth Awards are running for their third consecutive year this year, celebrating the outstanding achievements, resilience and contributions of young people across the County. The Youth Awards are a great way to showcase the talent and character of young people and are currently open for nominations of any young person who deserves recognition.

Please click the links below for a poster detailing Criteria for Nominations and a nomination form, which **should be shared with staff across your school:**

- [North Somerset Youth Awards Criteria Poster](#)
- [North Somerset Youth Awards Nomination Form](#)

Click below for a poster for the Awards - **please share in any upcoming school newsletters:**

- [North Somerset Youth Awards Poster](#)

Assumptions for producing 3-year Budgets

We are pleased to share our 2026-27 Budget Assumptions and guidance for producing your 3-year budgets. Please [download from Foldr](#) under 'Information for 2026-27 Budgets'.

School Business Managers- Trust Wide - Information for 2026-27 Budgets - Budget Assumptions and guidance 3 years 2026-27 - Final

We have not yet received GAG statements, but these will be downloaded and shared as soon as they are available, The Central Finance Team will update 2026-27 funding in IMP as per the guidance provided (but **not before Thursday 5 March** so that the Central Team are not making changes that may impact your January forecasting and financial reporting).

Please read and work through the guidance document and, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to [contact the Central 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, Operational Team 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 (final version, incorporating data changes for 2026-27, will be available once all GAG statements are available). IMP was updated with latest estimates of GAG funding during the February break in advance of GAG statements being available to download)
- LGPS Pension Deficits - not required for future years but the spreadsheet has been updated for 2025-26 based on the re-valuation from April 2026. (available in the 2025-26 budget information folder on Foldr).
- School Meals calculator (to help estimate catering costs for all years). This will be available once Trust Services are able to provide updated budgets from April 2026.
- Estimate of gas and electricity costs based on actual usage along with an estimated percentage increase.
- 2026-27 Deployment Model for primaries (will become available once all GAG statements are available)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#).

Budget Planning timetable 2026-27

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. This process is designed to set an agreed budget for the 2026-27 financial year and draft budgets for 2027-28 and 2028-29 by the end of this academic year.

In summary, we are asking schools to have an initial draft 2026-27 3-year budget completed by **Tuesday 21 April** as well as, for primary schools, up to date Deployment Models for 2026-27 that match their draft budgets. Schools have been working for some time on setting a balanced budget for 2026-27 but may need to make some updates to reflect any further changes that have taken place. So this initial draft 3-year budget should include the current known position e.g. resignations already received, etc. as well as the proposals for organisational change already agreed and being consulted on. It should demonstrate the financial position for the school without taking any further action.

During the period from **Tuesday 21 April** to **Thursday 4 June 2026**, schools will be required to establish initial plans for the changes that may need to be made to set a balanced budget for 2027-28. We recognise that a lot could change before you set an agreed budget for 2027-28 but establishing plans and sharing them with you LGB at this stage will help you.

Final draft budgets in the Master Scenario and Deployment Models, including any proposed organisational change for 2027-28, must be ready by **Thursday 4 June** to enable the team to carry out the final quality assurance process in advance of being scrutinised by Local Governing Bodies (LGBs).

We recognise that this may feel a little early to plan for changes for 2027-28. However, this will help with drafting your business case for organisation change taking place from September 2027, and for allocations from the new support fund to have been agreed, by the end of term 1 2026-27.

The period between **Tuesday 21 April** and **Thursday 4 June 2026** 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 Central 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. SBMs do not need to be available for the review. Ideally, you should give time to consider any feedback and adjust your draft budget if appropriate *before* your LGB meeting, particularly if you are projecting an in-year deficit for 2027-28.

We request that your LGB meets by no later than **Friday 3 July** to scrutinise the draft budget and agree any changes so as to propose a budget to the Trustees for ratification. The Board of Trustees will review and approve budgets on **Wednesday 15 July**.

Updated Mendip Vale Occupational Health Referral Form

Mendip Vale Occupational Health have provided us with an updated Occupational Health referral form to use. A copy of this form has been saved in LSP HR Secure Channel in MS Teams in the relevant 'Documents and Forms' folder.

If you have any queries, please contact the [Central HR Team](#).

ESTATES & TRUST SERVICES

Data Protection Reminder - Double-Checking Email Addresses

A reminder to please double-check recipient email addresses, particularly when emailing external parties which includes parents and pupils. We have recently had a number of data breaches arise due to incorrect email entry, including one that resulted in a serious complaint and a report to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) .

Bromcom - Linked Documents

Primary Schools

The linked documents that were extracted from SIMS as of 6 October 2025 have now been imported back into Bromcom. You can check for these under Students, selecting a pupil then scrolling to the Documents section under the Student Details panel.

Secondary Schools

The process is underway as this bulletin is emailed out. Each school will be contacted separately when the uploads are complete and the chosen arrangements for storage and access are in place.



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 that, by 9.00am on Thursday 12 March 2026:

- 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 March for a term of office which will expire in May 2026).

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

Term 3 and Term 4 LGB Agenda Templates

The updated agenda templates for Terms 3 and 4 are now available on the [LSP Governance SharePoint](#) and ready for you to use. We hope these make your planning a little smoother and help keep meetings consistent across LSP.



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		

Writing Training Day Materials

We had a very busy training day on Friday 13 February with over 400 primary colleagues on site at St Peter's Primary School. Thank you to all our staff that led sessions, enthusiastically took part and shared great practice. With experts such as Dr Tim Mills, Nick Cannon and our ULS and English Hub staff leading sessions we know there is a huge amount of knowledge coming back into schools.

Tim's slides are here and will be a great reference as we think about our writing curriculum.

[Trust Training Day - 13 February 2026 - Info for Attendees.pptx](#)

Talk Through Stories materials are in the LSP Curriculum Writing folder: [Talk Trough Stories](#)



Unlocking Fluency Opportunities

The Unlocking Team are preparing to launch Unlocking Fluency in September 2026. This will be a fully resourced reading fluency scheme for Years 2 - 7 to support children in their post phonics reading journey. We have worked closely with Chris Such to develop a strong, evidence informed model for fluency lessons and are now looking for teachers to contribute to the programme's development. We have two different roles to offer to staff from LSP schools on a fixed term secondment, separate contract or TLR basis (to be discussed and agreed with successful applicants). It will be an opportunity for teachers to contribute to this exciting new programme and also develop and bring expertise back to your schools.

Please can you share these roles with teachers you think may be a great addition to the Unlocking Team.

Lead Teacher for Unlocking Fluency

Salary: L1 - L4

Contract: 0.2 FTC April 2026 - April 2027 (Secondment opportunity)

Location: English Hub Office, St Peter's Primary School

Information Session: Wednesday 4 March 4.00pm

Teams link: [Join HERE](#)

Closing Date: Wednesday 11 March, 9.00am

Interview: Monday 16 March

Start Date: Monday 20 April 2026

About the role

We are seeking an exceptional teacher with a passion for reading, curriculum design and professional learning to take on the role of **Lead Teacher for Unlocking Fluency**. This is an exciting opportunity to shape a high-impact programme that supports schools in developing confident, fluent readers.

In this role, you will lead the planning and creation of curriculum materials, quality-assure the work of curriculum writers, and design and deliver training that supports schools to implement the Unlocking Fluency programme successfully. You will play a key role in ensuring resources are research-informed, consistent and impactful and follow our delivery model.

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly-skilled teacher and leader to extend their influence across multiple schools and make a meaningful difference to children's reading outcomes.

To apply: [Head to ESS](#) and view **Current Vacancies**

For further information: [Email Janine Ashman](#) and/or attend our online information session on Wednesday 4 March (details above).

Continued...

Unlocking Fluency opportunities

Continued...

Curriculum Writers

(Multiple posts depending on time commitments/ year group expertise)

Salary: M1 - M6 or TLR to cover time

Contract: FTC April 2026 - April 2027 (Between 6 - 24 days)

Location: English Hub Office, St Peter's Primary School

Information Session: Wednesday 4 March, 4.00pm

Teams link: [Join HERE](#)

Closing Date: Wednesday 11 March, 9.00am

Interview: Friday 20 March

Start Date: Monday 20 April 2026

About the role: We are looking for skilled and creative teachers to join our team as Curriculum Writers, developing high-quality lesson plans and teaching materials that support the delivery of the Unlocking Fluency programme for Years 2 - 7. This role is ideal for practising, experienced classroom practitioners who are passionate about reading, curriculum design and creating clear, accessible resources for teachers.

As a Curriculum Writer, you will work with a small team to write, refine and quality-assure lesson plans and accompanying materials. You will follow an agreed curriculum structure while applying your professional expertise to ensure every resource is clear, engaging and rooted in evidence-informed practice.

This is an excellent opportunity for teachers who want to expand their influence beyond the classroom and contribute to a programme improving reading outcomes for pupils across multiple settings.

To apply: [Head to ESS](#) and view **Current Vacancies**

For further information: [Email Janine Ashman](#) and/or attend our online information session on Wednesday 4 March (details above).



Bath and Wells Diocese Governance Training and Events

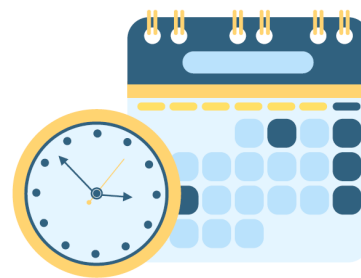
Please see the Governance Training and Forums information below, which should be shared with your schools LGB:

DATE	EVENT	BOOKING LINK
Wednesday 25 February	Clerks Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Tuesday 3 March	Trustees Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Wednesday 11 March <u>or</u> Thursday 12 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. Click here to view the agenda. (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
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

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