



In this week's edition...

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Operational Away Day - July 2026	All	Info
Ready for September Special Editions	All	Info
The Beacon - LSP Summer Newsletter	All	Action
Policy Publication: Probation Policy	All	Info
Policy Publication: Cyber Security Policy	All	Info
Policy Publication: Risk Management Policy	All	Info
DfE Free Breakfast Clubs (Phase 1 Rollout from April 2026)	Headteachers	Info
Research Community Conference - 20 July 2026	All	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
2026-27 Budget Changes	Headteachers, SBMs and FBPs	Info
Support Fund assessment	Heads & SBMs	Info
TRUST SERVICES & ESTATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Ground Maintenance Service and Pupil Safety	Heads & SBMs/OMs	Info
Electricity and Gas contracts - update	Heads & SBMs/OMs	Info

CPD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Lighthouse Learning Governance CPD Booklet for 2026-27	Clerks & Chairs	Info
Unlocking Letters and Sounds (ULS) CPD Offer 2026 - 2027	Primary Heads & Phonics Leads	Action
KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES		





Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Not for the first time, I'm borrowing a thought from Chris Hildrew at Churchill Academy and Sixth Form. We met yesterday and Chris was musing on the balance to strike in our speech as leaders between extolling the positives and speaking to the challenges. The sweet spot is of course where people feel encouraged and affirmed by your words without thinking that you live in an ivory tower! So, with that in mind, I will say that I think that we have had a good year.

I am proud to the point of bursting in the work done in our Bristol Primaries by our excellent leaders and staff. We have had the gratification of hearing that confirmed in SIAMS and Ofsted inspections and most of the pupils' outcomes so far. There remains much to do but we know that the road ahead is not so steep or stony. More widely we have had great SIAMS reports at Easton, Northleaze, Churchill Primary and SMRP which really validated Debbie Coker's work with our church schools network, the leadership of our CE heads, our partnership with our Dioceses and the support of our governors in Ethos Committees. We had a number of new Heads join us this year and all have thrived and delivered. We have also appointed strongly for next year.

Even the extraordinary challenge of budget setting has been a mission delivered. Our Heads have cut their cloth and the future projections are deliverable. The pay settlement has given us some relief too. Even the excruciating task of closing Wraxall CE Primary has been delivered with skill and kindness (thanks once again to Vicki Shepherd, Catrin Battista and Cath Campbell). Our work is hard but important and at the end of this academic year I feel that we have done our best. I hope you share that thought.

I have some news and thanks to express... Firstly, Abby Murray (currently on secondment from Whiteoak to SMRP) has been appointed Interim Headteacher there. I have been impressed and delighted with Abby's leadership at SMRP and I know that she will continue to lead the school strongly and with real heart. This brings Neil Lankester's long shift there to an end and I couldn't thank him more for what he has done: he walks the walk. We also have Fiona Thorn joining us as Office Manager at SMRP, taking over from Emily Hamill who has done great work covering that role. Emily will be joining Lighthouse Learning as CPD Delivery Lead in September.

We have a number of School Business Managers, and one Office Manager leaving after excellent service in their schools: Danielle Bigwood (St Peters), Judy Greenham (Winford), Avril Steele (Backwell and West Leigh) and Carol Burditt (Office Manager at Wraxall). All have been great colleagues and very significant people in their schools. Thank you to each of them and best wishes for the future. Lisa Dawson, School Business Manager at Northleaze, will be changing her role to Office Manager and it is great to retain her knowledge of the school and lovely welcoming manner.

Lastly, today will be Adele's last meeting of the Board of Trustees as Chair. She has managed the transition to Mark Blackman extremely well and we are in good hands. I am glad that she remains with us as a Trustee and will finish her term of office, which has several years to run. There may be a few lessons for UK politics to be learned here! I hope that the last days of term go smoothly.

With best wishes as ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



Operational Away Day - July 2026

Our Operation Away Day was held on Thursday 9 July at Leigh Court.

It was a mix of presentations from external providers/contractors as well as sessions with colleagues on key updates and changes coming up over the next academic year or so.

This day would not have been able to happen without the sponsorship of the following companies who covered the cost of the event, food and activities. Thank you so much to:

- Aspens
- Shine
- Regency Uniform
- Affinity Workforce Solutions (AWS)

Thank you to the wide range of our support staff who attended (including SBMs, OMs, HR Administrators, Cover Managers and Central Team Colleagues). It was an impactful day, and a great opportunity to see each other, in person.

We hope you all found it helpful. Here are some photos from the team building/wellbeing sessions at the start of the day - an important moment to take a break from the business of the end of the academic year.





Ready for September Special Editions

Earlier this week we circulated the Ready for September special editions of the weekly bulletin.

One has been created for School Leaders and one for Governance.

[Click here to view them](#) - we hope you will find them useful.



THE BEACON

LSP NEWSLETTER

The Beacon - LSP Summer Newsletter

We have created both a Staff and Parent/Carer version of The Beacon looking back over this academic year and celebrating successes from across the Trust.

Parents Edition

The Parents Edition of the Beacon [can be accessed here](#).

Action for Headteachers - please can you ensure you include a link to this newsletter in your end of term communications to parents.

Staff Edition

At the end of this week, Staff will receive their latest edition of The Beacon (this will be emailed to them directly).

Action for Clerks - please can you forward this onto your LGB so they can also have a copy.

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles for The Beacon this year - we really hope to continue to have information, impactful stories to from you all next academic year.

Leah Evans, Communications Officer



Policy Publication: Probation Policy

The Central Team SLT have agreed the updated Trust-wide Probation Policy. This policy has been updated to reflect the changes in employment law regarding probation periods for employees.

This policy can be [found here](#) (page visible to all LSP staff via ESS) and on Foldr: LSP Policies\HR Policies (it will also be available in our new policies library which will launch in September, when Foldr is retired over the summer).

No further administrative action at school level required. It is very important to ensure you are referring to the latest version of this policy. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the [Central HR Team](#).

Policy Publication: Cyber Security Policy

A new policy has been published, outlining our approach to cyber security and the steps we take to endeavour to keep the organisation safe from modern cyber security risks; hacking for example.

This policy can be [found here](#) (page visible to all LSP staff via ESS) and on Foldr: LSP Policies\Operational Policies (it will also be available in our new policies library which will launch in September, when Foldr is retired over the summer)

No further administrative action at school level required however as this policy applies across LSP, and a few slides will be provided for September for school leaders, so staff can be made aware of key elements of this policy that impact/refer to them. A reminder that all staff are required to undertake cyber security training on a yearly basis to ensure our insurance against such incidents is validated.

Policy Publication: Risk Management Policy

Following review by the Audit and Risk Committee the Central Team SLT have ratified the updated Risk Management Policy.

This policy can be found on the [LSP website](#) and on Foldr: LSP Policies\Operational Policies (it will also be available in our new policies library which will launch in September, when Foldr is retired over the summer)

No further required at school level required - we are just making you aware of the existence of this policy.



DfE Free Breakfast Clubs (Phase 1 Rollout from April 2026)

Headteacher Briefing - Strategic Considerations and Next Steps

Although schools are *only required* to deliver a free breakfast club *if they join the DfE-funded programme*, the Government's aim is that all state-funded primary schools will eventually offer a free breakfast club. Schools participating in the programme will be required to provide a free breakfast club for all pupils in Reception to Year 6, operating for at least 30 minutes before the start of the school day and meeting School Food Standards. The information below summarizes the information from this [DfE document](#).

Why LSP Schools May Want to Consider This

The guidance highlights evidence from existing breakfast clubs showing improvements in attendance, punctuality, behaviour and readiness to learn. Schools involved in the early adopter programme reported:

- calmer starts to the day
- improved attendance
- greater engagement from pupils

Breakfast clubs may also provide an opportunity to engage families where attendance is a concern and help establish consistent routines for vulnerable pupils.

There is also a clear link to Priority Pupil strategy planning. A well-targeted breakfast club could provide support for children experiencing disadvantage, food insecurity, attendance challenges, or wider wellbeing needs, therefore supporting existing Pupil Premium priorities around attendance, behaviour, wellbeing, enrichment and academic achievement.

Finally, the DfE encourages schools to integrate Breakfast Clubs into their wider improvement strategy, recognising that children who arrive settled, nourished and ready to learn are more likely to engage positively with learning throughout the day.

What Is Mandatory?

Schools that join the programme must provide a breakfast club that is:

- open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6 and cannot limit places available
- is free of charge and accessible to families
- runs for a minimum of 30 minutes immediately before the school day
- provides food that complies with the School Food Standards
- operates on, or close to, the school site; and meets all existing safeguarding, SEND, Equality Act and health and safety requirements.

Continued...



DfE Free Breakfast Clubs (Phase 1 Rollout from April 2026)

Continued...

What Does the DfE Recommend?

The guidance gives schools considerable flexibility in how they deliver their breakfast club. Schools are encouraged to design provision that reflects local needs and builds on any existing wraparound childcare offer. The DfE recommends consulting parents, actively promoting attendance by disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils, and considering enrichment activities such as reading, games, crafts, physical activity or supervised play.

Funding and Practical Considerations

The programme provides mainstream schools with a fixed daily payment of £25 alongside £1 per attending pupil per day. A one-off £1,000 start-up grant is also available to support equipment, training and implementation costs.

Suggested Next Steps for LSP Headteachers

At this stage, schools may wish to undertake an initial feasibility review. This could include:

- discussing the opportunity with governors
- exploring current attendance data
- considering which groups of pupils may benefit most
- surveying parents and assessing the practical implications for staffing
- catering and accommodation

For many schools, the key question is not simply whether they can deliver a breakfast club, but whether a breakfast club could become a meaningful component of your wider strategy to improve attendance, reduce disadvantage and raise achievement.

If you already have a 'breakfast club' provision in place (often run by an external contractor), and wish to look into the DfE Free Breakfast Club rollout, in addition to the points for consideration above you will need to speak to the [Central Trust Services Team](#) due to contractual and costing implications.



Research Community Conference - 20 July 2026

If you wish to attend the Poster Conference below, please [RSVP to Gary Lewis](#) by Thursday 16 July.

**University of
BRISTOL**

**LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**



RESEARCH COMMUNITY GROUP

POSTER CONFERENCE

Join us for an inspiring evening of research showcasing as our community comes together to share ideas, learn and collaborate.

**CELEBRATE
RESEARCH
CONNECT
COLLABORATE**

**MONDAY
20TH JULY**

	4.00PM	ARRIVAL From 4pm
	4.30PM	WELCOME Welcome and opening remarks
	4.40PM – 5.10PM	POSTER SESSION 1 Presentations and discussion
	5.10PM – 5.20PM	INTERLUDE Refreshments
	5.20PM – 5.50PM	POSTER SESSION 2 Presentations and discussion
	5.50PM	CLOSING WORDS Thank you and close

**HELD IN ROOM G.13**
Bristol University Fry Building,
Woodlands Road, Clifton,
BS8 1UG



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!



**RSVP BY THURSDAY 16TH JULY**
Please confirm your attendance by this date.



2026-27 Budget Changes

We have now received more detailed information from the Department for Education (DfE) about the additional funding to support pay awards and other costs, as well as the funding reductions due to the decrease in the Teachers' Pension Scheme Employer contribution rate. We have updated the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4 with the changes outlined below for you to compare against the V3 of the Approved Budget scrutinised by your LGBs.

New School Budget Support Grant (SBSG 26)

The DfE are providing additional funding to schools via a new School Budget Support Grant (SBSG 26) to support schools with overall costs, including the:

- Costs of the teachers' pay award from September 2026 (not yet agreed)
- Support staff pay award from April 2026 (not yet agreed)
- Increased costs for mainstream schools (for reception to Key Stage 4 provision, including special units and resourced provision).

The DfE have now published a calculator to estimate the SBSG 26 and these values have been added to the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4.

The grant for academies will be paid in November 2026 for the April 2026 to March 2027 period. The April to August 2026 period of this relates to the support staff pay award in April 2026 and the Central Finance Team will accrue for this income in 2025-26 in schools' Audit Workbooks. Details of the value of this for 2025-26 can be found in Foldr so that the income can be taken into consideration in your monthly forecasting. This income will also be added to the Master Scenario after 28th July forecast deadline. A further payment will be received for the period April to August 2027.

School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information for 2025-26 budgets - SBSG 26 - April to August 26 - nominal 1045

The funding for primary and secondary schools will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2027-28. However, until more information on funding rates for 2027-28 become available later in the year, we have estimated the additional funding for years beyond 2026-27 and have included it across all years in the scenario above.

Continued...



2026-27 Budget Changes

Continued...

Post 16 funding

Additional funding is also being provided to Post 16 provision. This additional investment will be delivered by increasing:

- 16 to 19 national funding rates
- T Level rates
- the disadvantage rate related to low prior attainment
- the rate supporting students in care and care leavers

We are anticipating new Post 16 funding statements to be provided, but in the meantime, we have included an estimate of additional funding to the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4.

At this stage it does not appear that there will be any increase in post 16 funding in 2025-26 for the support staff pay award for the period April to August 2026.

Early Years Teachers' Pay Grant (EYTPG)

Additional funding to support early years settings, including schools, with increased teachers' pay costs will be paid through the Early Years Teachers' Pay Grant via local authorities. The grant will be paid to Local Authorities in a single payment in October 2026 to cover the period September 26 to March 2027 and will be allocated to settings using part-time equivalent (PTE) for the relevant age group. More information will be provided as it becomes known. No changes have been built into the approved budget scenario V4 at this stage.

Please note that all of the additional funding detailed above relates to the April 2026 support staff pay award and the September 2026 Teachers' pay award. No assumptions of similar funding to support the next set of pay awards in 2027 have been built in and clarity on this issue has been requested from the DfE.

Teachers' Pension Funding Adjustments

As outlined in last week's bulletin, the employer contribution rate for the Teachers' Pension Scheme will decrease by 11% from 28.68% to 17.68% from 1st April 2027. Funding for schools will be reduced from this date to reflect the decrease in pension costs.

Continued...



2026-27 Budget Changes

Continued...

The funding reduction for Pre 16, will be processed as a deduction from GAG in five equal monthly instalments to cover the period 1st April to 31st August 2027. The DfE have now provided a calculator for 2026-27 and we have now used this to estimate GAG deductions - these estimated deductions have been added to the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4. From September 2027, the funding deduction will be subsumed into core funding, but the estimated deductions have been manually included as a reduction across all years in the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4 until more information on funding rates for 2027-28 become available later in the year.

Separate deductions will be made for Post 16 and early years provision. For Post 16 the payments made through the teachers' pension scheme contribution grant will be reduced from April 2027. These estimated new rates have been added to the scenario Approved budget 2026/27.V4. This includes a manual adjustment for the period April to August 2027 - other rates are calculated by IMP. (There are therefore 2 budget lines in IMP for the Post 16 pension grant for 2026-27).

Core Services Charges

Although all schools will see an improved budgetary position as a result of the changes outlined above, overall funding has reduced due to the reduction in funding of over £4m p.a. due to the reduction in contributions to the teacher's pension scheme. As a result, the core services charges for primary and secondary schools have been revised. This is not an increase in cost to schools, or an increase in funding for the Central Services Budget, just an adjustment to maintain the status quo.. The following revised charges have been proposed to Trustees and have been incorporated into Approved budget 2026/27.V4:

School Type	2026-27	2027-28
Primary	From 6.38% to 6.40%	From 6.38% to 6.56%
Secondary	From 5.60% to 5.63%	From 5.60% to 5.78%

Post 16 NICs grant

We have already advised our secondary schools of the Post 16 NICs grant allocations for the period April 2026 to March 2027 and an estimate for future years and these values have not changed. However, for information only, the DfE have added additional components to this grant funding for some settings as part of the additional investment mentioned above.

Continued...



2026-27 Budget Changes

Continued...

This does not impact any of our secondary schools - but on the back of this announcement, the grant is going to be renamed the Post 16 budget Support Grant (P16BSG) from April 2027.

PE & Sports Premium - transitional funding

Following the DfE press release on 21 May about the forthcoming changes to funding for PE and Sports in schools, Schools Week has reported that the government is proposing to increase the transitional funding to support primary schools by 50%, alongside pushing back the replacement system including the new partnership networks until April 2027. This is yet to be corroborated by the DfE, and funding allocations are not expected to be published until October 2026. Therefore, we are asking schools **not to make any decisions** about potential additional funding at the current time. If the report is correct, funding may increase to 6/12th of original PE & Sports Grant. We will, of course, update schools as soon as information becomes available. Changes are not being made to any IMP scenario at this time.

Future Action

The Board of Trustees are meeting on Wednesday 15 July to approve 2026-27 3-year budgets, and the proposed changes to pay assumptions and the core services charge. It is likely, but subject to Trustee approval, that Approved budget 2026/27.V4 will be approved as a new version of the 2026-27 3-year budget. We will advise schools if this is agreed, as schools will need to ensure that any revised budget is reported to their LGB at their first meeting in the 2026-27 academic year.

After the Trustee meeting, the changes outlined above will be updated in the Master Scenario after 28th July forecasting deadline.

Impact on overall Trust Finances

The difference between the approved budget before these changes (IMP APPBUD2026/27.V3) and after Approved budget 2026/27.V4 is provided in the table below:

Impact of change on in year position		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
V3	In year (surplus)/deficit	£753,741	£1,269,687	£4,075,025
V4	In year (surplus)/deficit	£(104,833)	£381,297	£3,447,628
Impact of change in year	(positive)/negative	£(858,574)	£(888,390)	£(627,397)

The difference between V3 and V4 on IMP will enable you to see the financial impact on your school(s) of the changes detailed above.

Continued...



Support Fund assessment

As we reach the position of approving a budget for the next three years, we have been looking at potential allocations from the Support Fund. We provided a flow chart in the bulletin on 24th June about the process of providing allocations from the support fund. The flowchart said that by 15th July Headteachers would be informed if further action is required to balance their budget and/or to receive a draft of their assessment to the panel. I am pleased to confirm that this will be issued to Headteachers individually by email tomorrow.

Please be aware that this will present recommendations to the Support Fund Assessment Panel. The outcome may be different and will not be confirmed until the Support Fund Assessment Panel meet on 14th September. Please do not hesitate to [contact me](#) if you have any queries.

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer





Grounds Maintenance Services and Pupil Safety

We've had reports from our ground's maintenance contractors that on some sites, students are being allowed outside whilst work is taking place in the same area (grass cutting etc). When this happens, the contractors must down tools and move elsewhere on site – which means visits take longer, some areas may be missed altogether, and more importantly, it creates an avoidable safety risk around machinery and equipment.

To keep everyone safe and make sure schools get the full benefit of each visit, please can all schools ensure the following:

- **Check the schedule** - Cornish Garden Services send out emails seven days before they attend and 48 hours before they attend - please share this with staff. (If you are not receiving these emails please let [Trust Services](#) know, and we will ensure they are getting through)
- **Keep students clear of work areas** - While contractors are operating in a particular zone (fields, playgrounds, pathways), students should not be given access to that area. Plan break times, PE lessons, and outdoor activities around the visit where possible.
- **Communicate on the day** - Cornish Garden Services will sign in when on-site and if there are areas that cannot be accessed, please let them know.
- **Brief teaching staff** - A quick reminder in the morning on visit days via email goes a long way to preventing classes heading out into a work area.
- **Staff releasing students into the playing field** - Please ensure staff check the area before they release the students from classes on the days the contractors are in.
- **Noise** - During the hot weather contractors will try their best to minimise disruption however it cannot be completely stopped we would appreciate your support with this as if the works are not completed there is no guarantee the works will be picked up again and the cost will need to be covered.

Segregating students from contractor operations is a basic requirement of safe contractor management, and it's the school's responsibility to control access to areas where work is taking place.

If your visit timings regularly clash with breaks or outdoor lessons, please [get in touch with the Central Trust Services team](#) and we'll work with the contractor to look at adjusting the schedule.



Electricity and Gas contracts - update

We will be undertaking a public tender to award our gas and electricity contracts from 30 September 2026. This will take place over the summer holidays, with new estimated costs available in September to update against the forecast made earlier in the year.

As always, we do our best to forecast and provide you with budget information for the next financial year, but this will be dependent on not only the p/kWh we contract at, but also standing charges and your consumption on site. An update of your current consumption will be made alongside the work for the tender to ensure we contract at the best rates for all our schools.

Our intention is to contract for two years due to current market rates, which will limit any changes of suppliers going forward. ESOS will continue to verify bills as they currently do.

More information will be circulated for the start of the term. If you have any questions, then please [get in touch with Steph Franklin, Sustainability Lead.](#)





Lighthouse Learning Governance CPD Booklet for 2026-27

Following on from last week, when we released the Lighthouse Learning CPD booklet for schools, we are pleased to share with you the [Lighthouse Learning Governance CPD booklet for 2026-27](#).

If you have any questions about this please email [Sarah Cran, Lead on Governance](#).

Unlocking Letters and Sounds (ULS) CPD Offer 2026 - 2027

The Unlocking Letters and Sounds CPD offer for 2026-27 is linked below and full ULS training is essential for all your staff. Dates can be found below or in the [ULS CPD Brochure](#). Bookings are open now - please [book your place here](#).

Essential Termly Updates

An essential update for phonics and early reading leaders of ULS schools.

All sessions must be attended. All sessions 3.45-5.15pm (online):

- 28 September 2026
- 16 November 2026
- 18 January 2027
- 15 March 2027
- 10 May 2027
- 21 June 2027

Open ULS Training

Our Full CPD is for all staff delivering any aspect of Unlocking Letters and Sounds.

Schools must attend one session; 9.15am-3.00pm (online):

- 28 September 2026
- 4 November 2026
- 27 January 2027
- 10 March 2027
- 9 June 2027

Further dates and sessions available. Please see the [ULS CPD Brochure](#) for full details.



Upcoming CPD Updates and Opportunities

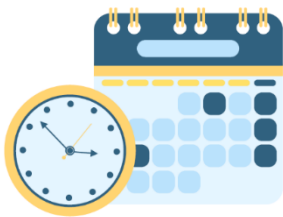
DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
2026-27		
Friday 4 September	INSET Day for Learning Partners Backwell School	Learning Partners



KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES



These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly.



DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Tuesday 21 July	Final weekly news bulletin circulated for 2025-26	All
Wednesday 22 July	Final Day of Term 6	All

Our ‘quick link buttons’ are being redesigned/redirected over the coming week’s, so they are correct for September onwards (due to the closure of Foldr).

If you are looking for something please email enquiries@lsp.org.uk



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



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