



GST Newsletter Issue 2

June 2023

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2022-23 academic year. The Governor Support Team (GST) would like to take this opportunity to thank all governors for your continued support and commitment to the education of children and young people across Cumbria. We hope governors can take a well-earned summer break.

If governors would like to refer back to any information in previous newsletters, please go to the [GST website](#).

News/Updates

The Department for Education (DfE) regularly share [School Governance updates](#) which provide important news and communications relating to governance in maintained schools and academy trusts in England.

Teachers' pay award announced

The Government has accepted the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) [recommendations](#) for 2023-24 teacher pay awards in full, meaning teachers and leaders will receive a pay award of at least 6.5%. The four education unions have asked their members to accept the pay offer and to call off further strike action. The Department for Education have confirmed that schools will receive a new Teachers Pay Additional Grant in 2023-24 to support them in meeting the costs of the awards. The grant will also be available in 2024/25 after which it will be rolled into the core schools funding formula from 2025/26.

Schools will be expected to fund 3.5% of the rise from school budgets, which many schools will have budgeted for given the evidence the Government submitted to the STRB.

2023/24 and 2024/25 Performance Measures

The DfE have published their [guidance](#) which explains the primary accountability measures, including how a school's progress scores are calculated. As primary tests and assessments were cancelled in academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to COVID-19 disruption, there will be no relevant KS1 data which is required to calculate primary progress measures for 2023/24 and 2024/25. Given the lack of a statistically robust alternative baseline to calculate primary progress measures, the DfE will not be producing or publishing primary progress measures for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Mathematics Subject Report

Ofsted has published a **subject report** looking at how mathematics is being taught in England's schools. Overall, mathematics education in schools 'is now broadly more positive than it was 11 years ago' especially in the primary sector despite recruitment challenges. This subject report evaluates the common strengths and weaknesses of mathematics in the schools inspected.

Letter to governors and trustees about qualification results 2023

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) has published a letter to governors and trustees, outlining what the grading system will look like for schools and colleges in 2023. In September 2022, Ofqual confirmed that this year there **will be a return to pre-pandemic grading** with protection built into the GCSE and A level grading process.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The **Pearson School Report 2023** has recently published its findings around the challenges and opportunities facing schools around SEND and it takes a closer look at what is working well.

Governance – A new academic year

Planning your board's CPD for the next academic year

As the summer break approaches, governance professionals are already planning ahead for the new academic year.

Boards are expected to conduct a regular skills audit and use the results to inform an evaluation of continual professional development (CPD) requirements. The NGA recommend that boards use the NGA **skills audit and dashboard** to identify their strengths and areas where they need to develop knowledge and skills. The skills audit is unchanged from last year with separate versions available for governors and MAT trustees.

All governors and Trustees have free access to the NGA **Learning Link** e-learning until 18th April 2024, which was funded by Cumbria County Council prior to the new authorities. Learning Link is an effective way for governors, trustees and governance professionals to develop the knowledge and skills they need. The GST recommend boards using the list of **modules** and module collections to draw up a training plan for 2023/24.

For new governors who have not yet registered to the Learning Link, registration instructions are on the back page.

New Chairs/Governance Professionals (clerks)

For some boards, a new academic year can mean a change of membership of boards, new governors/trustees, possibly a new chair, clerk/governance professional and you may even have a new headteacher.

To assist us, it would be helpful if you can update us with any changes to chairs and clerks/governance professional (school email) contact details so we can ensure all boards continue to receive our communications. GST contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

GST Contact Details

The GST continues to offer advice, support, and guidance, specific to your boards needs and can be contacted as follows:

Faith Matthews

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Working days Monday to Wednesday

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HOW DO YOU REGISTER FOR LEARNING LINK?

INTERACTIVE
RESPONSIVE
FLEXIBLE
ESSENTIAL

It's a simple process...

1. Visit <https://nga.vc-enable.co.uk/register> to find the online self-registration form.
2. Add your details to the self-registration form in the following order:
 - Your first name
 - Your last name
 - Your email
 - Your phone number (optional)
 - Your governance role title (optional)
 - Your school or academy – use the search box and make sure to select the right one using the postcode*
3. Click the green register button to submit your application for approval.
4. Approval is not immediate and you must wait for email confirmation of approval. It can take time to receive this email particularly if your application is submitted over a weekend or in the evening.
5. Your confirmation email will be sent to you. Once you receive your email confirmation, which includes your login details you can login to Learning Link and start to use it whenever you want to.

* If your school or academy is not listed, it may not be signed up to Learning Link. In this case please select the "My group has not been listed" box and an email will come through to us so that we can contact you.

E-LEARNING ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

GOVERNORS | TRUSTEES | CHAIRS | CLERKS

INTERACTIVE
RESPONSIVE
FLEXIBLE
ESSENTIAL

The National Governance Association has teamed up with Virtual College, one of the UK's top e-learning providers, to deliver accessible, engaging and convenient e-learning.

Key governance topics include: strategy; team work; assessment; staffing; financial oversight; effective governance; compliance; collaboration; and much more.

Benefits

- Over 50 CPD training modules
- Eight new induction modules
- A certificate of achievement with every module
- Secure access – 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Multi-device access – desktops, tablets and smartphones
- Tracked learning – revisit content, take a break or pick up where you left off
- A dedicated support service