

BESST - Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training



Welcome to the March BESST update for Governors!

We hope you had a great half term break. Here are the latest updates for Governors from BESST.

The next Corporate Director Briefings will be held online on **Wednesday April 27th (6.30pm)** and **Thursday April 28th (9.30 am)**. The agenda and online link will be sent out nearer the time, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Supporting your Headteacher

Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Headteachers

We recognise the continuous, intense pressure that school leaders have been under since the start of the pandemic in 2020. We also recognise that often, one's natural instinct is to worry about your pupils and staff first, with many headteachers tending to put themselves at the bottom of the list for support. Gareth Drawmer and Tim Jones are running **2 Well-being and Mental Health support sessions in March for Headteachers**, to provide a systematic approach to supporting their well-being. We really encourage Governors and especially Chairs of Governors to support head teachers with their mental health and well-being, and to encourage them to make use of these sessions during March. Head teachers have received an email with booking information.

BASL Conference for Headteachers

Planned by Headteachers, for Headteachers, the Buckinghamshire Academy of School Leadership (BASL) will be holding its Annual Conference for Headteachers this month on the theme of **The Legacy of Lockdown – Finding the Positive Route Out'**. The conference has an impressive line-up of speakers, including Sir John Jones, one of the world's most popular speakers on change; and David Gumbrell, an author and speaker on resilience and well-being who has been worked in schools in Surrey for over 20 years. Headteachers can sometimes feel that they can't take the time out of school, however the conference is not only an opportunity to hear inspirational speakers and invest

in their personal CPD, but also for Headteachers to spend valuable time with peers from across the county, to discuss, develop and define their thoughts on leadership, and to reflect on their own school's development.

Education Strategy Consultation

The Education Strategy Consultation has been launched and we are seeking views from teachers, governors and parents. The attached article contains further information and a letter for parents. Please share with your colleagues and school community and respond by **28th March 2022**.

[Education Strategy](#)

Side By Side Conference – Structuring the STEM Curriculum

We have secured excellent, local speakers to provide stimulating workshops on 31st March for Buckinghamshire schools and governors. This is free to Bucks schools and will be conducted via Teams. See [flyer](#) for more details.

Making the most of your NGA membership

Do remember that all maintained schools in Buckinghamshire have membership to the [NGA](#) and [Learning Link](#) for 2021/22 paid for by Buckinghamshire Council. The NGA has some fantastic resources for governors, helping to keep you up to date on current national trends and providing guidance and advice on a broad variety of governance topics. Whether you're a [new governor](#) or more experienced, it's well worth looking on the NGA website whenever you're planning [monitoring visits](#), updating [policies](#) or facing a tricky issue. Don't forget there are over 50 e-learning modules on Learning Link, weekly newsletters and regular podcasts too.

SEND Improvement Newsletter

The SEND Improvement Newsletter is available [online here](#); in which you'll find updates on the Holidays Activities and Food Programme, the SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy, links to various webinars and more. This newsletter will be especially relevant to your SEND Governor.

Governor Recruitment

Do you have vacancies on your governing board? If so, sign up to [Recruiting Governors - Inspiring Governance](#). This is the DfE's free online tool for matching volunteers to governor vacancies and is the website that the local authority promotes to prospective governors that enquire to us. Sign up now to see if your next potential governor is there ready and waiting for you!

BESST Training for Governors!

BESST training has continued through the Spring Term and to date this academic year we are thrilled that over 180 governors have attended at least one BESST course. Your feedback has been really positive, for example *"I thought this was a truly excellent session. It was thorough, user friendly and informative without being too daunting."* And *"Very useful and lots of great information."* We're listening to your suggestions and working on bringing in some additional topics later in the year, especially with new governors in mind. Book training on the [BESST webpage](#).

Here is a summary of upcoming training dates. To book online, please see the [BESST webpage](#).

Appointing an Executive Leader – a guide for governors (£25) BOOK	Tuesday 1 st March 2022; 6.30-7.30pm
<p>Anna Falek from the Buckinghamshire Council HR Team will take governors through the key stages of recruiting and appointing an executive leader; from understanding the law regarding the recruitment of a headteacher, the basic principles of successful recruitment and the role of the Local Authority, through to the specifics of planning and preparation, appointment timelines, advertising and promotion and finally to the selection process and post-recruitment actions.</p>	
Being Strategic – What good governance looks like (£25) BOOK	Thursday 3rd March 2022; 6.30-7.30pm
<p>Join Paul Randall (Chair) and Anne Sheddick (Vice Chair) from the Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors, for a session on what good governance looks like, especially after 24 months of COVID.</p> <p>Hear up-to-date guidance on statutory duties for Governing Boards and the most recent legislation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the latest guidance and statutory duties for governing boards. 2. Have enhanced confidence in the role of the governor and what good governance looks like. 3. Be signposted to a range of useful and practical resources. 	
The Role of the Safeguarding Governor in an Ofsted Inspection (FREE) BOOK	Wednesday 9th March 2022 6.30-7.30pm
<p>Being able to demonstrate that your school has effective safeguarding systems and procedures in place is essential in the Ofsted inspection. This FREE session will take you through how to audit the school's safeguarding procedures, how to ensure the safeguarding systems in your schools are robust and adhere to the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education and ensure you understand your role in planning for and during an Ofsted inspection.</p>	
Prevent Duty - Guidance for Governors (FREE) BOOK	Thursday 17 th March 2022; 6.30-7.30pm
<p>Prevent is one of the key elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and it aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist and extremist influences or prejudiced views. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable.</p> <p>Schools working with other local partners, families and communities, have a duty of care to their pupils and staff which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. This presentation covers what extremism is, the current climate, how extremists are using Covid to promote their narrative and how Prevent and Channel work in Buckinghamshire</p>	

Overseeing Educational Visits, the Governor's Role

(£25) [BOOK](#)

Wednesday 30th March 2022;
6.30-7.30pm

Mike Harwin is the Buckinghamshire Council Adviser for Educational Visits. This session will provide Governors with up-to-date information about their roles and associated responsibilities with the approval process and provide detail in the following areas:

- To develop an understanding of the role of the School Governor in the approval process and National Guidance information.
- To provide Governors with a 'need to know' overview of Buckinghamshire Council's policies concerning Educational Visits.
- To raise Governor awareness to the issues currently faced in the planning and implementation of Educational Visits.

NGA Membership 2022-23, The Key and Governor Hub

We are currently arranging discounted membership of the NGA package offer for Bucks schools in 2022-23. We are also arranging to be able to offer access to Governor Hub, The Key for School Leaders and The Key for School Governors, also at discounted rates. Look out for further details in following newsletters and meetings.

BESST

BESST is the traded school improvement and governor support service from Buckinghamshire Council. Led by our experienced team, BESST services will enable school leaders to keep up to date and support the implementation of best practice across Buckinghamshire. Our services will continue to develop in the coming months based on feedback from school leaders and governors.

Please see [BESST](#) online for more details of our training courses and services.



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