

BESST - Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training



Welcome to the July BESST update for Governors!

Wow! The end of the year is coming around so fast! As we approach the summer break, we would like to pause to take a minute to say a huge THANK YOU to all governors across Buckinghamshire. We know you work tirelessly to support and challenge your schools throughout the year, striving to continually improve outcomes for our Buckinghamshire children. Your work is essential to the education of our children, and we truly appreciate the time and dedication you put in, so **THANK YOU!**

In this month's edition: A reminder to purchase your governance support and training packages for 2022/23, a look ahead to dates for your diary in the autumn term and the launch of some useful resources from the NGA.

Governor Hub

In case you missed it last time, we are pleased to announce that you can now purchase annual membership to Governor Hub through BESST at the discounted rate of £145 (excl VAT) per board for the academic year 22/23. We also plan to be able to offer discounted access to The Key by September.

GovernorHub is a secure solution for storing your governing board's documents, as well as providing a shared calendar for meetings, a library of resources and more. Your bursar or headteacher can order your GovernorHub membership via the [online shop](#).

Don't forget to renew your NGA Membership

This year, all maintained schools' governing boards in Bucks have had access to NGA standard membership and to over 50 e-learning modules paid for by Buckinghamshire Council. Next year, this same level of membership will be subsidised by the council at 50%. Discounted memberships at standard and gold level, and access to learning link for maintained schools and academies can be purchased through [BESST](#) via the online shop. Take a look at this video to learn about how to make the most of your NGA membership: [National Governance Association | For school governors, trustees & clerks - National Governance Association - 16 June 2022 \(loom.com\)](#)

BESST Governor Training for 22/23

BESST are growing our training for governors during 22/23 and we will be offering at least 8 live online evening sessions per half term throughout the year. Training packages can be purchased via the online shop, or you can opt for pay as you go.

The first autumn half term will include a free Governor Priorities Briefing session – ideal for helping to set your autumn term agendas; courses for new governors such as an introduction to schools' finance, an introduction to safeguarding and Being Strategic – what good governance looks like; as well as courses for more experienced governors, such as Strategic Financial Management, Managing Head teachers' performance and preparing for an Ofsted inspection.

Clerking Matters – Final Call to take part in our Survey & Focus Groups

A final reminder that you can complete a short survey to share your views about how BESST could support governing boards and governance professionals. We are keen to understand the needs of governance professionals and boards in regards support for clerking so that we can shape our BESST service offer to the needs of Bucks schools now and in the future.

Please complete our survey to help us understand your needs:

- [Link to survey for Chairs of Governors & Headteachers](#)
- [Link to survey for Governance Professionals \(clerks\)](#)

We will also be running two focus groups before the end of term. Please email schoolgovernance@buckinghamshire.gov.uk if you would like to be involved.

School Governance Consultative Board Vacancy

The closing date to express an interest in the governor representative vacancy for the Wycombe area on the School Governance Consultative Board is July 20th. If you are a governor, trustee or director of a school in the Wycombe area and would like to know more about the role or express an interest in taking on this voluntary post, please email schoolgovernance@buckinghamshire.gov.uk by 20th July.

Governor Recruitment

Have you spotted the Governor Recruitment posts on social media this week from the Buckinghamshire Council Careers page? Keep an eye out and do like and share them if you see them, especially if you have vacancies on your governing board.

We have already received enquiries from a number of volunteers, so if your school is looking for a co-opted / community governor please email the schoolgovernance@buckinghamshire.gov.uk mailbox to see if we have a volunteer we could match you up with. Please include the school name, any key skills you are looking for and the contact email address and phone number for your chair of governors.

Dates for your diary

Internet Safety – Keeping Children Safe in Education – Training for Governors - Thursday 7th July, 18.30-19.30 (MS Teams) [BOOK HERE](#)

New Governors End of Year Review with the BASG – Tuesday 12th July, 18.30-19.30 (MS Teams) [BOOK HERE](#). If you are a relatively new governor, join us for an informal session to reflect on your first academic year. A great opportunity to meet other governors and ask questions.

Autumn Term Corporate Director Briefing – Wednesday 7th September, 19.00-20.30 (MS Teams), repeated Friday 9th September 09.30-11.00 at Aylesbury Rugby Club in Weston Turville. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

Autumn Term Priorities Briefing with the BASG – Tuesday 13th September, 18.30-19.30 (MS Teams). Booking will open soon via the BESST webpage

Useful Resources

- The NGA have recently released two new resources, likely to be extremely useful to many governing boards. You will need to log in to your NGA account to access these:
 - [NGA Annual Planner for maintained schools and Academies](#)
 - [NGA Policy Review Schedule](#)
- [Support for Ukrainian Families and Young People web page](#)

About 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.



Buckinghamshire Education
School Support & Training
(BESST)