



The bulletin for Gloucestershire's School Governors

We would like to invite you to contact **Governor Services** with news, information or details of events for governors.

Email: [governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or phone 01452 425313. Publication dates for future editions can be found in the 'Noticeboard' section below. Chairs are asked to share the contents of this e-bulletin with their governing body.

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## Action items

### [GSCB Section 175 Safeguarding \(Child Protection\) Audit](#)

The 2011/2012 Safeguarding Audit for schools is now on the GSCB website for downloading and completion. It can be found at [www.gscb.org.uk/audit](http://www.gscb.org.uk/audit). Please could all schools either print the audit and complete, returning a hard copy, or save as a word document, complete and return electronically. All details for return addresses are on the Audit form itself.

This is the 3rd annual Safeguarding Audit, the purpose of which is twofold:

Firstly it aims to assist schools to measure how well they are performing against the Safeguarding criteria and Ofsted Inspection requirements. The Ofsted framework from September 2009 gives priority to checking the school's procedures for safeguarding and for keeping children and young people safe from harm. The new Ofsted Framework from Jan 2012 merges Safeguarding with Behaviour and Attendance but keeps the Safeguarding expectation high. The Audit is a tool that enables your school to look at aspects of safeguarding provision including how well pupils are safeguarded and protected, how well child protection concerns are identified and responded to, how well safeguarding is prioritised and the school's Single Central Record (SCR). Each school will have their own action plan from last year's Audit and this can be used as evidence to highlight progress in an Ofsted Inspection. This year's Audit also aims to assist you in planning for the new Ofsted Framework requirements related to Safeguarding from next year.

Secondly, it aims to provide the GSCB with an idea of how well schools are performing against the criteria within Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007) as well as the legal duty placed upon schools by Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (section 157 of the same Act for Independent Schools). This will assist the GSCB in targeting training and advice to schools.

It is appreciated that schools are very busy at this time of year, but hope that this will be a useful and worthwhile exercise. The return date for completed Audits and a copy of the school's action plan is **9th December 2011.**

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### [Urgent: Low Carbon Conference - expressions of interest needed by 26th October](#)

This year the usual series of GCC roadshows has been replaced by a free conference covering various aspects of the Carbon Reduction agenda. The conference is on Tuesday, 27th March but we are asking for expressions of interest by emailing: [lowcarbonconference@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbonconference@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 26th October to establish likely numbers. There will be a presentation from a keynote speaker followed by a series of workshops. The event is open to all schools, academies and children's centres. See the full details on the bulletin board.

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## Information items

### [New Medical Guidance from the NHS available on Schoolsnet](#)

Guidance can be downloaded from the above link on managing medical needs, including dispensing medication in schools and managing medical conditions such as Asthma, Epilepsy and Anaphylaxis. There are useful links to national guidance from the Department for Education and the Council for Disabled Children.

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### [Amendment: Skillzone - Gloucestershire's first safety education centre](#)

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service's new life skills centre will open in Gloucester in **September 2012**. SkillZONE will be a state-of-the-art, fully interactive learning environment to teach children, young people and other vulnerable people how to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe. SkillZONE will open its doors in September 2012 with bookings being taken from April 2012. For more information, log on to <http://skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk> or call Dave Norman on 01452 753225.

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### [Tree of Light](#)

The Rotary Club of Gloucester is putting a lot of effort into making the Christmas 'Tree of Light' this year a positive and worthwhile event. They hope to raise a lot of money for local charities and create an enjoyable atmosphere whilst doing it. They are hoping to recruit a good number of schools to help bring the centre of Gloucester to life and encourage participation of the public. Flyer is available on the bulletin board.

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## [PTA/Friends of the School, arranged Bonfire Events](#)

Provided these events take place in the name of the school for the benefit of the school or the PTA and with the permission of the Headteacher, the County Council liability policy will apply. There are extremely strict guidelines concerning Health and Safety of such events and the links below will provide you with details of organising a Fireworks display, you should also contact your Health & Safety advisor. Health & Safety Executive Guidance, PTA Events Code of Practice and School Events Risk assessment tool kit

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## [School Trips and Visits](#)

Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) are running a series of training seminars around the County for staff in schools responsible for visits and journeys. The course will coincide with the revised county offsite visits guidance manual being published. It will cover health and safety laws relevant to school trips; what the Government is saying about making it easier for schools to take pupils on trips; tackle any myths about school trips and explain what is happening in Gloucestershire. The events are being held at a number of venues and include mornings and twilight sessions to encourage as many schools to attend as possible. Full details can be found at the above link. For further information or to book a place, contact Stuart Higgs in SHE Tel: 01452 426148 or email: [stuart.heggs@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.heggs@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

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## [The Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership](#)

The theatre in education company Cragrats are touring 24 schools and colleges throughout the County over the next three weeks.

Aimed at car passengers, potential & young drivers this hard-hitting piece of drama will be delivered to over 3,000 Y11, sixth form & college students.

This is the third tour in the last four years and includes the following programme:

- A pre-event movie trailer to pre-empt the key messages and engage the students with the subject of road safety.
- Live drama and workshop presentations delivered by highly skilled actors.
- Six comprehensive lesson plans for teachers to work with students and continue the learning, post programme.

If you would like to know more, contact the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership on 01452 425600.

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## Governor Training

### Training Courses for Governors

**The following courses are undersubscribed at the present time, please consider whether any of your governors require training in this area**

Induction Training for New Governors	09.11.11 22.11.11 23.11.11	Museum in the Park, Stroud The Bells Hotel, Coleford The Pavilion, Hatherley, Cheltenham	09.30-15.30 09.30-15.30 09.30-15.30
The Role of the Chair	15.11.11	Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm	09.30-15.30
The Role of the Clerk	22.11.11	The Pavilion, Hatherley, Cheltenham	09.30-15.30

If you would like to book a place on this course, please complete the governor training booking form and return it to: Governor Services, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP or fax it to 01452 427297.

The booking form can be downloaded at: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/index.cfm?articleid=20737>

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## [Training Courses - January - June 2012](#)

For details of training courses available for governors, clerks to governors and head teachers.

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## Awareness raising for governors on issues relating to vulnerable pupils with SEND

This workshop event will give governors the opportunity to consider aspects of the provision and performance for vulnerable children and pupils with SEND.

- **Tuesday 15th November 2011 - 3.30 - 4.30 pm**  
Forest PRU, Joys Green Centre, School Road, Joys Green, Glos. GL17 9QX
- **Tuesday 29th November 2011 - 3.30 - 4.30 pm**  
Gloucester PRU, Russet House, 35 Russet Close, Gloucester, GL4 0RQ
- **Tuesday 22nd November 2011 - 3.00 - 4.00 pm**  
Stroud PRU, The Whitminster Centre, Ryeleaze Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 1JR

Places are limited to 20 per venue. If you wish to attend, please contact Debby Hancock on 01452 425113 or email: [governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk) to book a place on these sessions.

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## Noticeboard

### Gloucestershire Governors' Association Meeting

The next Open Meeting of the Gloucestershire Governors' Association will be held jointly with the Gloucestershire Association of School Business Management (GASBM).

#### Theme: Supporting your Head with business expertise

Does your Governing Body want to free your Head Teacher from the mountain of administration? Do you want to support your Head in devoting more time to the central role of teaching and learning? For many years secondary schools have had a Bursar/School Business Manager (SBM) to take the administrative burden off the shoulders of the Head. There is now a move towards trying to do this for primaries. Topics to be covered include 'what do SBMs do?', 'what is the impact of an SBM on a Head and on a school?', 'how to get the best out of your SBM' and 'how can primaries access an SBM?'

Speakers include Kerry Brimfield, a National SBM Advocate for the National College for School Leadership and the Chair of the GASBM, Steve Brimfield (Gloucester Academy).

The meeting will be held on **Monday 7th November at 7.00 pm** at Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP. All, including Heads, Bursars and School Business Managers, are welcome.

Please let Jennie Leighton, Governor Services know if you are going to attend so that we can make suitable arrangements. Tel. 01452 425846 or email: [governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Please also note that the date of the Open Meeting on the **New Ofsted Framework** (from January 2012) will be held on **Monday 28th November at 7.00 pm** at Shire Hall. Further details to follow in the next What's Up Gov?

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### Future publication dates of 'What's Up Gov?'

10th November 2011  
24th November 2011  
8th December 2011

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