



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 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.

Edition: 24th November 2011

Issue: 95

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[Local Government Ombudsman report on most common faults in school admission appeals](#)

The Local Government Ombudsmen have published a new Focus report called: School admissions: are parents and pupils getting a fair hearing? In the report, the LGOs identify common faults by school admission appeal panels that cause injustice to the parents and the children concerned. The report includes six illustrative case studies where admission appeals were not handled properly. The report and press release can be accessed at the above link.

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[Additional Grant for Schools \(AGS\) 2011-12](#)

The Department of Education has released Additional Grant for Schools (AGS) 2011-2012. GCC will pass the funding onto schools in October 2011, including any schools that converted after the Summer Term. Academies converted during and before the Summer Term will receive their funding directly from the YPLA. Please refer to the Schoolsnet page at the above link which will provide details of your schools allocation and the conditions of grant.

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[Locality teams Q&A available](#)

A reminder that there is a useful Q&A sheet for schools which helps to answer questions on the county's locality teams. It covers areas such as services offered, and how to get in touch with your local team. It links to the Traded Services Handbook where appropriate. Find the factsheet on the county council website under the 'Downloads' section. See the full range of localities information at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/localities.

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[Schools Questions and Answers Challenge](#)

The BBC is running a version of Schools Question Time open to all pupils aged 14-19. Schools will need to submit a five minute film or audio piece in which pupils debate a single topic of their choice. Judging will take place in December and the six winning schools announced next January. Three of the winning schools will get the chance to work with the BBC in producing three Question Time style debates which will be broadcast live as a webcast as well as on the BBC Parliament channel and three schools will work with the BBC in producing three editions of Radio 4's Any Questions programme, presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. Details can be found at: www.schoolsquestionsandanswers.co.uk or emailto:sqa@bbc.co.uk. To talk about any of this, call Gwen Stirling on: 0770 767857 or email: gwen.stirling@bbc.co.uk. Flyers are on the bulletin board.

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[Business Support Services to Schools - 2012/13 Prices](#)

The Business Service Centre has held 6 roadshows to showcase their new schools e-Forms and these were attended by more than 130 schools, many of whom have already signed up to the new pay & conditions service which gives them a price discount of up to 5%. Business Support traded services prices will be shared with the schools forum on 23rd November and will then be published on Schoolsnet. The order form for Business Support traded services will be available from 14th February and the prices for insurance based services will also be published. These prices cannot be published any earlier because 95% of the price is dictated by external factors such as annual external renewal premiums. Schools are important to Support Traded Services and we are doing our best to keep prices low, keep quality high and maintain the breadth of services available to all schools, including academies. If schools have queries about the services being provided please contact Cheryl Chambers on 01452 425153, or email: Cheryl.chambers@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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[Schools Meals Contract Update](#)

The latest school meals contract update is available on Schoolsnet at the above link.

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Governor Training

Training for Governors

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

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| The Role of the Chair | 05.12.11 | 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>

Noticeboard

REMINDER - Local Authority / Gloucestershire Governors' Association Meeting

The next open meeting of the Gloucestershire Governors' Association will be held on **Monday 28th November** - 7.00-9.00 pm - Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP.

Ofsted is introducing a new school inspection framework from January 2012. The new framework has now been published in draft form (<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/draft-framework-for-school-inspection-january-2012>).

The new arrangements will introduce four principal judgements that will lead to the overall effectiveness grade for the school. More time will be spent in the classroom, and there will be a sharper focus on how head teachers and governors lead a continued drive on raising standards.

This event will provide an early opportunity for governors to:

- be informed about the important changes to the evaluation schedule (<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/draft-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-maintained-schools-and-academies-january-2012>) and conduct of inspections
- identify the similarities and differences between the current and new frameworks
- hear from inspectors about the inspection process and protocols: timelines, preparation and the inspection visit itself
- learn about the focus on vulnerable groups, reading and phonics at all key stages
- consider how governors and head teachers might respond to new expectations regarding self-evaluation

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

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Help with logging in to Schoolsnet

Usernames for Schoolsnet are set by the Schoolsnet Web Team and must not be changed. They fall into four groups: head, office (admin), teacher (inc. support staff) and governor.

Passwords have been chosen by someone in your school, usually an administrator, and they should be responsible for giving you a username and password for your group. Staff sharing a password should not change it.

If the password is lost or forgotten (or wiped out when new software is installed) call the Schoolsnet team who will follow a procedure to re-set it.

GCC staff are not allowed to give you a log-in so if you are having trouble logging in email schoolsnet@gloucestershire.gov.uk or phone 01452 425763. Go to Schoolsnet/Contact Us/ Questions about log-ins for more information.

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Arthur Dye Primary School change of name

Arthur Dye Primary school changed its name to Springbank Primary Academy on 1st August 2011. The telephone number remains 01242 527766 and the email addresses have changed to: head@springbankpri-ac.gloucs.sch.uk, admin@springbankpri-ac.gloucs.sch.uk and business@springbankpri-ac.gloucs.sch.uk.

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Churchdown School - change of email address

Churchdown School have now changed their email address as they've now become an Academy. The new email is: deputy@churchdownschool.com

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

8th December 2011

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