



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.

Edition: 8th December 2011

Issue: 96

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*Merry  
Christmas*



*from Governor Services*

## Information items

### **REMINDER - 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. The return date for completed Audits and a copy of the school's action plan is **9th December 2011**.

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### **NASUWT industrial action short of a strike (work-to-rule)**

You will no doubt be aware that, following the strike in respect of the 'national day of action' on 30th November, the NASUWT have embarked on further 'official industrial action' in the form of an ongoing work-to-rule. This is deemed as 'continuous industrial action' and therefore continues until further notice. The action is 'official' in that it is covered by the mandate obtained by the NASUWT through their previous industrial action ballot.

In general terms where schools experience difficulties arising from this action they are advised:

- wherever possible to seek an amicable resolution through discussion with the employee.
- only consider formal action (usually in the form of a pay deduction) if an employee continues to refuse to carry-out activities or instructions with which they can legitimately be expected to comply under STPCD / Burgundy Book.
- unless extreme circumstances dictate otherwise, avoid consideration of pay deductions for potential breach of the implied term of 'good faith'.
- in the (hopefully unlikely) event that a pay deduction is to be considered, advice should be sought from HR.
- contrary to NAHT guidance issued, it is the responsibility of the governing body and head teacher to respond to industrial action in community and voluntary-controlled schools as well as in Foundation, voluntary-aided schools and academies. So, while the local authority has an advisory responsibility, the final decision in such matters rests with the school.

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### **Industrial action 30th November - processing deductions from pay via GCC payroll**

Advice on pay deductions and other matters relating to industrial action has previously been circulated. With regard to the procedure for making pay deductions you may find it helpful to use the links below to take you directly to the pages on SchoolsNet where the pay deductions spreadsheets are located.

Please note there are separate spreadsheets to be used for Teachers and Support Staff as the teachers' conditions of service require deductions to be calculated in a different way than for other employees.

Please note that the completed spreadsheets must be returned by e-mail (paper copies cannot be accepted) to your BSC administrator by **7th December** at the latest in order for the deductions to be made from salary payments at the end of December.

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### **Schools' Forum Briefing No. 10: 23rd November 2011**

The latest briefing is now available on the bulletin board at the above link.

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### **School Funding**

The Schools Forum has given initial consideration to the budget position for next year and is seeking your views. The main issues are:

- How the Minimum Funding Guarantee should be applied
- Specialist school funding
- Advanced skills teachers
- Schools on split sites

An explanatory letter is on the bulletin board. A meeting to discuss the proposals, and to give an update on the government's proposals for reforming school funding from 2013/14 will be held at 2pm on Monday 9th January in the Council Chamber at Shire Hall.

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### **One to One Tuition : a survey of schools' plans and intentions for 2011-2012**

We would be grateful if schools would complete a simple online survey regarding how funds are being spent this year on One to One Tuition. This information will contribute to a report currently being written for the DFE, summarising the situation in Gloucestershire. Your responses will enable us to assess the need for further training of tutors. Please click on the above link to take you straight to the survey. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Barry Jones: email: [barry.jones@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:barry.jones@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

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## [Theft of catalytic converters](#)

Schools are advised to review their vehicle security following a recent spate of thefts of catalytic converters from GCC vehicles. Thieves are particularly targeting minibuses, vans and 4x4 vehicles due to the ground clearance under such vehicles, which makes it easier for the thief to access the component but it is not exclusive. All vehicles fitted with a catalytic converter are at risk.

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## [LLE Recruitment](#)

The National College have announced that the next round for recruiting Local Leaders of Education opened on Monday 28 November 2011 and will close on Friday 6 January 2012. Further information is available at the above link.

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## Noticeboard

### [Youth Against Cancer Week 12th - 18th December 2011](#)

This is an opportunity for young people to support those of their own age who are facing the fight against cancer and make a real difference. More information and flyers are on the bulletin board.

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### [Olympics 2012](#)

Schools and colleges which are members of the Olympic Get Set Network can apply for grants to lead activities encouraging other schools to make the most of the London 2012 Games. Grants of up to £8,800 are on offer through the 'Plan your 2012' initiative for projects that will inspire other local schools to engage with the London 2012 Games and have a lasting impact on children. So far 56 Gloucestershire schools and colleges have registered as members of the Get Set Network. Schools can find out more about the scheme and how to apply on the London 2012 'Get Set' website [www.london2012.com/getset](http://www.london2012.com/getset). The next round of grant applications is now available and will close on 6 January 2012.

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### [Building Update - December 2011](#)

Asset Management & Property Services have just published the December 2011 edition of 'Building Update'. These are just some of the items which feature in this latest edition:

- Free conference - 'Low Carbon for Schools 2012'
- Getting your building ready for winter - help from the Property Care Team
- Framework Update - details of the latest frameworks that are available to you
- Funding available for low carbon schemes
- Safety Notices for electric blankets, air fresheners and Sony TVs

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

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5th January 2012  | 19th January 2012  |
| 2nd February 2012 | 23rd February 2012 |
| 8th March 2012    | 22nd March 2012    |
| 19th April 2012   | 3rd May 2012       |
| 17th May 2012     | 31st May 2012      |
| 21st June 2012    | 5th July 2012      |
| 19th July 2012    |                    |

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