

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Welcome to issue #21 of Governor Headlines. This edition includes information on Standards and Excellence Officer (SEO) visits, the Govern Suffolk campaign, the Suffolk travel policy and school admissions arrangements.

As always, if you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding Governor Headlines please contact governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk .

What's New This Month – February 2019

Governor Attendance at Standards and Excellence Officer Visits

Please could we remind you that as governors you are welcome and in fact expected to attend meetings at your school with your Headteacher and Standards and Excellence Officer (SEO). Visits from the SEO occur at least once per term and offer a verified external view of the school that in turn helps governors in their monitoring. It doesn't have to be the Chair of Governors who attends these meetings, nor does it have to be the same governor each time, however feedback should be supplied to the whole governing body.

Details of SEO visits are compiled by the SEO in a Rolling Record on the Perspective Lite website and your Headteacher can either give you their password to access this site or circulate copies of the Rolling Record to the governing body. We would also encourage you to be aware of this document in holding school leaders to account.

Govern Suffolk – An Update



As you'll be aware we launched our Govern Suffolk Recruitment campaign in June 2017 to generate interest in the role and help fill the vacancies we had across the county.

Since the campaign was launched we have received 83 applications, 41 of which have resulted in successful appointments within school and 14 of which are currently going through the appointment process.

The current number of governor vacancies in maintained Suffolk schools is 270, which is less than 10% of the total governor population and significantly lower than the 406 vacancies we had in February 2017.

Whilst some of these vacancies have been filled through Govern Suffolk and through academisation, we also have to thank you as governing bodies in identifying and appointing your own candidates.

However, we would like to see governor vacancies reduce even further in 2019. We aim to further promote the Govern Suffolk campaign across the county and work closely with local businesses in encouraging their employees to consider a governance role.

We would of course also appreciate your continued help in sourcing candidates for your own governing bodies, especially parent and staff governors which we are in less of a position to identify. We recently launched a [Recruitment Toolkit for Governors](#) which provides a guide for the appointment of new governors in maintained schools, however if you need further assistance please don't hesitate to contact us at governance@suffolk.gov.uk or 01473 263972.

You may also like to have in place a procedure for processing any governor applications, both those that you receive directly and those that come from us. We have unfortunately had a number of candidates withdraw their application due to inefficient communication from the governing body so we would encourage you to contact your applicant as quickly as possible and keep them informed throughout the appointment process.

Changes to School Travel from September 2019

As you may be aware, Suffolk County Council has changed its school travel policies effective from September 2019. Each Headteacher and Chair of Governors was sent

a letter dated 24 January 2019, signed by Allan Cadzow and Councillor Gordon Jones. This article has the attachments promised in that letter and we hope that they assist schools, colleges and parents to be organised for the start of the 2019/2020 school year. For a copy of the letter please click [here](#).

Please find below the documents promised in the letter:

1. [A simple overview of the changes to the policy](#);
2. [An at a glance overview of what happens when](#);
3. A quick step guide for all schools, designed to help assist in reviewing the school's travel plan in preparation for the changes can be found [here](#) and [here](#);
4. Bitesize Sustainable Modes of Travel guide recently sent to all Headteachers and Governing Bodies, together with an information sheet for parents to enable you to print and display for families in your area can be found [here](#) and [here](#);
5. [Finally, an archive of previous communications sent via Suffolk Headlines about the school travel review, proposals, agreed changes and actions.](#)

We hope that the above listed documents will aid parents and schools in understanding the changes to the policies and assist them in getting ready for September 2019.

Further information is available at www.suffolkonboard.com. Should you require to contact the passenger transport team you can ring them on 0345 606 6173 or email them at passenger.transport@suffolk.gov.uk

School Admissions Arrangements for 2020/2021

All voluntary aided, foundation, free schools and academies must determine their admission arrangements for the 2020/2021 school year by **28 February 2019**, even if they have not been changed from the previous year and a consultation was not required.

Admission arrangements include your oversubscription criteria, Published Admission Number and Supplementary Information Form, if relevant.

Please [click here](#) for further information.

Contact Jan Scott – Senior Infrastructure Officer, Admissions:
jan.scott@suffolk.gov.uk 01473 264657.

Education Inspection Consultation 2019

Ofsted has recently published the consultation of its [draft framework for the inspection](#) of maintained and academy schools, to take effect from September 2019.

The new framework is focused on a single “quality of education” judgement to replace the existing “quality of teaching, learning and assessment” and “outcomes for pupils” categories.

The new framework has been developed with the aim to “de-intensify the inspection focus on performance data and place more emphasis on the substance of education and what matters most to learners and practitioners” and is based on [research carried out by Ofsted](#).

The consultation closes at 11:45 on the 5th April 2019. Details on how to supply your feedback can be found [here](#).

International Festival of Learning – Friday 28th June 2019

Preview event for Edtech focused Festival of Learning

26 Feb - 6pm for 6.30pm - Geoff Barton returns

This year’s festival is focused on the role of technology in education - an area of rapidly growing importance in the ability of schools to manage workload and efficiency, as well as drive up standards. This free preview event, with special guest Geoff Barton will whet the appetite of what’s to come - with high-level debate, demos and thought-leadership. Click [here](#) to register.

IFL East - 15% discount code for tickets to the main festival on June 28 is Headlines15. Go to www.ifleat.org to explore and grab your tickets!

Grants Towards Projects Which Encourage a Reduction in Sugar Intake and a Healthier Lifestyle

Public Health has partnered with Suffolk Community Foundation to offer grant funding to support local projects which encourage a reduction in sugar intake and a healthier lifestyle for children and young people.

The grant is open to PTAs or Friends of Schools/PRUs and community groups such as Brownies, Scouts and youth projects to bid for funding of up to £1,000.

The grant has been set up to support child or young person led projects which address the Health and Wellbeing Board's 10-point sugar reduction plan. The fund encourages young people to be creative, and for projects to use alternative methods to promote their work.

Please click [here](#) for more information about applying for the fund, or contact Chris Pyburn at chris.pyburn@suffolk.gov.uk .

Good Estate Management for Schools

Please click [here](#) to find tools to help you ensure your organisation has the right skills, processes and policies in place.

Health and Safety Executive Information for Schools Bulletin and Advice



A new schools e-bulletin has been published by the Health and Safety Executive. They have also published information on slips and trips in the workplace, to include cold weather guidance. This can be found [here](#) .

Contact: Nina Bickerton, Nina.bickerton@suffolk.gov.uk
