

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Thank you to everyone who, following last month's edition, notified us of any issues they'd been having with receiving Governor Headlines. In light of these we have decided to change the way we distribute the newsletter. Governor Headlines will now be sent to you directly as a PDF attachment on the 5th of every month. It will also sit on our webpage www.suffolk.gov.uk/governor along with all previous editions. We hope that this will solve any distribution issues but if you do have any problems in the future, or would like to offer any other thoughts regarding Governor Headlines, please contact governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk.

What's new this month - October 2017



Raising the Bar 2018-20 Strategy: Consultation

FOR ACTION | ALL SCHOOLS

In recent months, senior council officers went around the county visiting school and setting leaders to discuss the next phase of the Raising the Bar (RtB) strategy. Using all the feedback received, a draft RtB 2018-20 Strategy has been developed and we would welcome your views on this through a consultation that launched on Tuesday 19 September.

Find out more in a [letter](#) from Cllr Gordon Jones and Allan Cadzow.

Helping you to prepare for Ofsted

If you are a Chair of Governors at a school either due or over-due an Ofsted inspection, you may have already received an invitation to attend a 'Ready for Ofsted' session in October. We still have a limited number of spaces available that you may like to book onto.

The aim of the sessions are to support Chairs of Governors to ensure:

- governors have a good level of confidence to play a strong role as part of the wider leadership team in leading the school through an Ofsted inspection
- governors know their school well and can demonstrate how they are undertaking their statutory responsibilities and supporting the school's improvement
- governors are well prepared and have the knowledge to undertake the conversation with the Ofsted inspector in showing how governance is contributing to good or better education for the pupils at their school.

It is intended that the flavour of the briefings will be a mixture of information, discussion and support to enable you to be prepared for the inspection visit and to demonstrate your leadership of the school with clarity and confidence.

After these briefings the Standards and Excellence Officer (SEO) for your school will be able to meet with you and your Headteacher to follow up on any issues or questions that you may have.

The two sessions available are:

Date: 09/10/2017

Location: Best Western Brome Grange Hotel, Nr Diss, Suffolk, IP23 8AP

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Date: 10/10/2017

Location: Kesgrave Community and Conference Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich, IP5 1JF

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

If you would like to book for one of these sessions please contact Lyndsay Cook at:
Lyndsay.cook@suffolk.gov.uk or 01473 260163.

DFE Funding for CPD Opportunities Announced

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The Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund (TLIF) have released details of the funded CPD opportunities for schools. Many schools in Suffolk could benefit from these opportunities, so register now to ensure that your school does not miss out!

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-and-leadership-innovation-fund-programmes-for-teachers-and-school-leaders>

Free Mental Health Resources for Schools

As part of the Anna Freud Learning Network campaign - '***You're never too young to talk mental health***' – these new, free resources include '***Supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools***' booklet, new **Top-Tips videos for teachers**, and our **Measuring Wellbeing eLearning** aimed at schools and the voluntary sector.

The Anna Freud Learning Network, recognising that schools are on the frontline when it comes to supporting children and young people's mental wellbeing, has produced a **free booklet for schools** entitled '***Supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools***'.

The booklet aims to support all staff working in school settings to understand how best to help the children in their care. It explains what to do if you are worried about a child or young person and includes information on topics including anxiety, low-mood and self-harm.

Developed with our child mental health experts and illustrated by Mair Perkins, you can **download the booklet for free at:**

<http://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/schools-in-mind/youre-never-too-young-to-talk-mental-health/supporting-mental-health-and-wellbeing-in-schools/>

This booklet is the first in a series of new resources we've developed for the Schools in Mind network. To keep informed of future releases, please register to receive termly updates from Schools in Mind network for free [here](#).

In addition to the **'Supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools'** booklet, above, the Anna Freud Learning Network has created a series of films which offer practical guidance about what teachers can do in the classroom to support mental health and what to do if they are concerned about a child.

If you have any queries please contact Sharon Jarrett at Sharon.jarrett@suffolk.gov.uk or call 01473 260865.

Launch of Suffolk Parent Carer Network (SPCN) Annual Survey

The Suffolk Parent Carer Network (SPCN) has launched its Annual Parent Carer Satisfaction Survey. The survey is aimed at parents and carers across Suffolk, who have children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This is a great opportunity to help shape the provision of SEND services in Suffolk.

To take part in the survey visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G5YJVV7>

For more information please click [here](#) or visit: <https://spcn.org.uk/>

The survey will run from 3rd to 31st October.

The SCC School Leadership and Governance Team and Schools' Choice

To help you to know the best place of contact for various governance issues and ensure you receive the best form of support, we would like to remind you of the differences in the role and responsibilities between the Suffolk County Council Leadership and Governance team and Schools' Choice.

Prior to January 2017, all governor services operated under Schools' Choice. In January however, School's Choice divested from the Local Authority to become their own separate entity, retaining Governor Training and the Clerking Service.

Suffolk County Council continue to undertake the statutory responsibilities for governance, including the appointment of Local Authority governors and the reconstitution of governing bodies.

Our Senior Governance Advisor Joanna Howell is available to offer advice through any challenges you may be facing. To contact Joanna please email joanna.howell@suffolk.gov.uk or phone 01473 263972.

It is vital that you report any changes to your governing body to governance@suffolk.gov.uk so that we're able to amend our records accordingly. This especially includes any governor resignations, new appointments and reappointments as, if we don't have this information, we are not able to support you to the best of our ability.

A Celebration of Schools' Music



Monday 5 - Saturday 10 March

This long-standing partnership between Snape Maltings and Suffolk County Music Service brings together 1,400 performers from 35 state-funded Suffolk Primary, Secondary, and

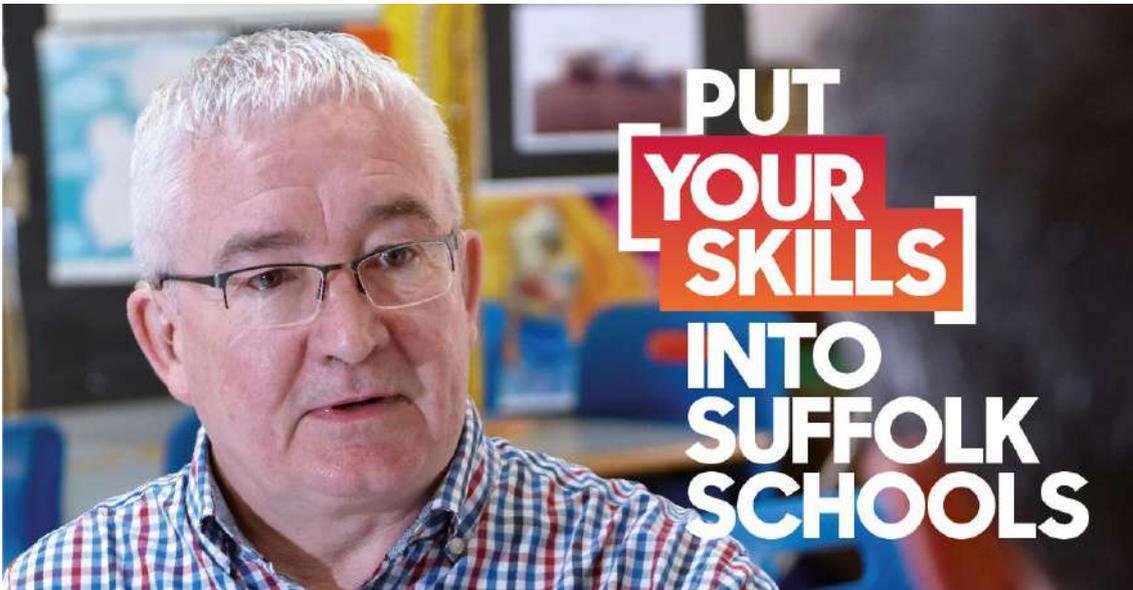
Special schools at all ages and stages of learning. Each evening culminates in a spectacular vocal finale piece, this year commissioned from Aga Serugo-Lugo. **All** genres, styles and traditions welcome; we want to celebrate all young people's [music-making](#).

Invitation packs arrive in schools this week. Closing date: **Friday 20 October**.

01473 281866

county.music@ SuffolK.gov.uk

Govern Suffolk - Recruitment Campaign



Help someone else put their skills into a Suffolk school by sharing the information below or by directing them to: www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk.

Govern Suffolk Schools
Become A School Governor

Could you put your skills into a Suffolk school by becoming a school governor?

If you're looking for a way to give back to your community and have a positive impact on the education of children and young people in Suffolk, we want to hear from you.

Suffolk County Council is launching its **Govern Suffolk Schools** campaign to help fill the 450 vacancies that currently exist across the county.

School governors play such an important role within the education system, providing strategic leadership and accountability, ensuring the school is as good as it can be.

A governor can make a really important contribution to a child's life, whilst developing personal and professional skills at the same time. Being passionate about improving outcomes and opportunities for children and young people is essential.

You can really make a difference.



Emma Oddie is a School Governor from Sudbury and said:

“I became a governor because I wanted to give something back to my community. I am able to use my strategic thinking and previous experience working in education and business to make a difference to my local school which is really rewarding.”

Watch Emma's story and see how other people across Suffolk are putting their skills into schools [here](#).

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the role and how to apply, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/governsuffolk .

Alternatively, you can Call: 01473 263972 or Email: governance@suffolk.gov.uk.
