

October 2012 Bulletin Board

The National Governors' Association is an independent charity representing state school governors from both local authority maintained schools and academies. This monthly NGA bulletin board is distributed to local governor associations and co-ordinators of governor services who are members of the NGA so that they can keep governing bodies up-to-date on our work, the changes and developments in governance and active Government consultations. So, please help to keep others informed by sharing and distributing this widely. If you are not a member of NGA and have found this bulletin useful, this is only a fraction of the information NGA produces for governors; please consider joining us: see page 5.

If you have any comments on this bulletin or suggestions for future editions, please contact laura.owen@nga.org.uk.

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A. GCSEs to be replaced with the English Baccalaureate Certificates

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has announced that GCSEs would be replaced by new qualifications called English Baccalaureate Certificates. Speaking in the House of Commons, Michael Gove said that, although the GCSE qualification was designed with "the best of intentions," it was designed for a different age and world.

It is proposed that the new qualifications will be assessed by exam only at the end of the course. In addition there will be only one level as opposed to the current system of foundation and higher papers. The Secretary of State acknowledged that this would mean that some students would be unable to achieve a qualification. For these pupils schools would have to provide a detailed record of their achievement. In addition, it will be possible to take the qualifications at 17-18 rather than 16.

It is proposed that schools will start to teach the new qualification in English, maths and science in 2015, with the first students taking exams in these in 2017. Geography, history and languages will follow later. Competition will be ended between exam boards, with only one board providing each subject in the new certificate.

The DfE has launched a formal consultation on the proposals which will last for three months. The NGA will be responding and if you have any views please send them to [Philip](mailto:philip.wood@nga.org.uk) (philip.wood@nga.org.uk). NGA members will be kept up to date with any changes to GCSEs through the newsletter.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departentalinformation/consultations/a00213902/reforming-key-stage-4-qualifications>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00213908/oral-statement-ks4-exam-reform>

B. Education News

1. Pupil Premium

David Laws (Minister for Schools) and Nick Clegg (Deputy Prime Minister) announced at the Liberal Democrat conference last week that extra money would be made available to schools. David Laws announced that schools would receive a small increase in the Pupil Premium for this financial year from £600 to £619, but that from April 2013 the pupil premium would rise to £900.

Schools receive funding through the premium for every child registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the past six years and children in care who have been looked after for six months. There is a separate pupil premium allocation for children of service families.

Nick Clegg also announced two further tranches of money. The 'catch-up' premium will be paid to secondary schools for every pupil who arrives in Year 7 not having achieved the expected level in English and Maths at Key Stage 2. £500 will be available for each pupil. In addition, following the success of this year's summer school programme £50m will be made available to run the summer schools again during the 2013 summer break.

Members can read more about the pupil premium, including information from the Sutton Trust on what works, on the NGA website. See also the NGA poll for October on the NGA homepage.

2. Ofsted Inspectors to Recommend External Reviews of Governance

Under the new inspection framework that came into force in September, Ofsted inspectors will be placing a greater emphasis on governance. Ofsted has published subsidiary guidance for its inspectors which contains more information about the aspects of governance they should focus on. In particular, it notes 'Where governance is ineffective in a school judged to 'require improvement' and is graded three for leadership and management, inspectors should include governance in their recommendations for improvement.' Specifically, that the inspectors should recommend that "An external review of governance should be undertaken in order to assess how this aspect of leadership and governance may be improved".

The reviews will be tested during this term and only schools subject to a HMI-led inspection will undergo a review. Ofsted and the National College are working together to pilot the reviews, which will involve a National Leader of Governance or a National Leader of Education designated by the National College conducting a short review of the quality of governance at the school, and discussing with the school options for improving governance.'

NGA is involved in discussions with DfE and the National College about the detail of these reviews. If anyone has any comments to make, please email Emma Knights (emma.knights@nga.org.uk) with the title 'Inspecting Governance.' For more information on inspecting governance under the September 2012 framework, NGA members can go to the guidance section of the website.

C. NGA News

1. NGA Poll

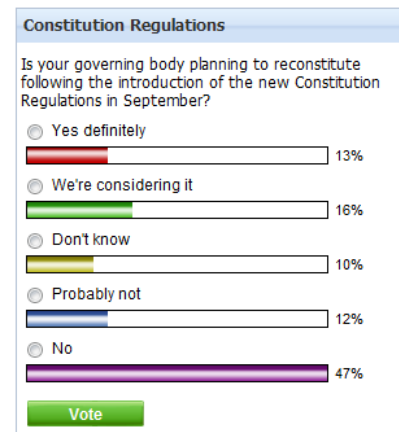
Please take the time to vote in the NGA poll:

'Are you reporting pupil premium information on your school's website?'

The results of last month's poll:

'Is your governing body planning to reconstitute following the introduction of the new Constitution Regulations in September?'

47%	No (159)
16%	We're considering it (57)
13%	Yes, definitely (44)
12%	Probably not (43)
10%	Don't know (35)



2. Knowing your School

On 21 September, the NGA together with GL Performance published the next briefing note in the *Knowing your Schools* series. *Getting to know your parents* shows you how to make use of parent surveys to find out what they think of your school, and what issues are more important to them.

The briefings are free documents for anyone to download. You can find them in the public resources section of the NGA website, under 'Useful Documents.'

3. The NGA Outstanding Governance Awards

The NGA is proud to announce the launch of the Outstanding Governing Body and Outstanding Clerk awards 2013. There are two awards up for grabs: the outstanding governing bodies, and one for outstanding clerks. They are open to both academies and local authority maintained schools and to members and non-members alike. The NGA awards are designed to celebrate and promote good practice and the governance award is not necessarily presented to the most improved school. It's a 'wonderful recognition' for the work you do, so please consider nominating your governing body or clerk. Please see the NGA website to download a nomination form.

4. NGA Top Tip

Committee terms of reference and membership must be reviewed annually. The first governing body meeting of the year is a good time to look at your committees.

D. Dates for Your Diary

1. East of England Regional Event: ‘Developing governing bodies’

The East of England Regional Meeting, on the morning of 13 October at Stansted, will feature a keynote presentation by Emma Knights, Chief Executive of NGA, on improving the effectiveness of governing bodies, and will hear from a National Leader of Governance about their work in supporting chairs of governors. The event will start at 10.00 and finish at 12.30.

To book, please go to the NGA website: http://www.nga.org.uk/East_2012.aspx

2. Preparing for the year ahead: Other NGA Regional events in the Autumn

In each of the other regions there will be an opportunity for governors to meet and learn from others across the region. Emma Knights (NGA’s Chief Executive) or Gillian Allcroft (NGA’s Policy Manager) will lead a discussion on the key issues for governing bodies in 2012/13:

Region	Date and Time	Venue
East Midlands	Wednesday 17 October, 11.00 – 15.00	Northamptonshire
South West	Saturday 20 October 11.15 – 15.00	Taunton
South East	Tuesday 23 October, 11.00 – 13.00	London

These discussions are free to NGA members: further details on www.nga.org.uk.

3. Annual Conference and AGM

The NGA Annual Conference and AGM will be held on 24 November at The Midland Hotel in Manchester. Book your place in advance to avoid disappointment – the last conference was over-subscribed. Bookings **must** be made **online** before 22 October.

Book your place on the events page of the website. This event is for members only – you will need your personal membership number to hand to book a place. If you don’t know what it is, please call the office on 0121 237 3780.

www.nga.org.uk/annualconference_2012.aspx

4. Conference for North West Chairs of Governors: Wirral Conference on Special Educational Needs, schools and employment

Meadowside Special School in Woodchurch are holding a half day conference on Saturday 13 October, on a variety of issues around the education and employment opportunities for young people with special educational needs. Keynote speakers will include Rt Hon Frank Field MP and Esther McVey MP (parliamentary under-secretary of state for the Department of Work and Pensions).

For more information, please visit www.meadowsideschool.com. To register attendance, please email schooloffice2@meadowside.wirral.sch.uk.

5. Yorkshire Education Conference - 10 November 2012

The NGA is running a joint conference with NUT and NAHT for governors and headteachers in Yorkshire. Speakers will include Christine Blower (General Secretary of NUT), Russell Hobby (General Secretary of NAHT), and Emma Knights (Chief Executive of NGA). The conference will explore issues about school improvement and share examples of good practice.

Registration is free, but delegates must book in advance at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YorkshireEducationConference>.

Enquiries to: YEC@nut.org.uk

<http://www.teachers.org.uk/node/16664>

E. DfE & Ofqual Consultations since the last bulletin (closing dates are for DfE)

1. [Reforming key stage 4 qualifications](#)

Closing Date: Monday 10 December 2012.

To view these consultations, please go to

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/consultations>

NGA is always interested in hearing governors' views on these and other topics; please email any comments, or copies of any submission you make to NGA's policy manager: Gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk.

F. NGA Partners

GL Education Group

The GL Education Group is a provider of integrated assessments, stakeholder surveys, self-evaluation systems and professional development services. Together, our resources and services provide teachers and governors with the tools they require to help raise standards in our children's education. The GL Education Group consists of two divisions: GL Assessment (which provides assessments for children's education, mental health and wellbeing), and GL Performance.



www.gl-education.com

G. NGA Membership Benefits

Governing bodies can join the NGA to receive more benefits. Every governor will gain access to the members' only area of the website, and receive the weekly newsletter.

GOLD governing body membership: £250 ensures in addition that every governor receives NGA's magazine *Governing Matters*; free induction guides, additional event places, and is entitled to advice from the NGA, including **access to our legal service**.

Standard governing body membership: £70 entitles you to five free copies of the bi-monthly magazine, discounts on publications, and a free place at members' events as well as the weekly newsletter and web resources.

Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits. If you have not yet given us the names, home addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please send details to: membership@nga.org.uk.

