

# National Governors' Association BULLETIN BOARD

**BB 1/11 4 January 2011 ~ A Happy New Year**

Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY  
Tel: 0121 237 3780 Fax: 0121 122 1323 E-mail: [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk) Website: [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

***The Bulletin Board is an NGA membership benefit circulated to Local Associations and to Co-ordinators of Governor Services to update them on NGA's work, consultations and developments in school governance.***

*Please share this information widely, through your email contacts and at local meetings, to keep governing bodies better informed of, and more involved in, current activities and national issues.*

## **FOR ACTION: NGA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY and NGA NEWS**

### **NGA Spring Regional Meetings:**

West Midlands – Wednesday 26 January (evening), NGA Offices, Birmingham  
North East – Tuesday 1 March, Durham County Hall  
Yorkshire & the Humber – Monday 7 March (evening), Holiday Inn, Wakefield  
London – Monday 14 March (evening) (Venue TBC)  
South East – Monday 14 March (daytime) (Venue TBC)  
East Midlands – Tuesday 15 March (Lincolnshire venue TBC)  
South West – Saturday 19 March, Express by Holiday Inn, Taunton  
East of England – Wednesday 30 March (Venue TBC)  
North West – Monday 4 April (evening) Swallow Hotel, Preston

### **NGA Conference: School Improvement: *Wednesday 2 March 2011 – Central London***

As with last year's NGA Winter conference, this is not a members' conference, but an event aimed at governor services managers, school improvement professionals and others whose professional work brings them into contact with governors. The cost is £75 +VAT for NGA members and £150 +VAT for non-members. A booking form and further details can be found on the NGA website.

### **For ACTION: NGA Regional Director Election – West Midlands Region**

The NGA West Midlands Regional Meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday 26 January 2011. The West Midlands Regional Director will need to be elected at that meeting. Guidance for nomination and a nomination form can be found on the NGA website. Go to *About us*, then click on *Regional Director Elections 2010*, on *WM Elections Guidance Notes* and on *WM RD Nomination Form*. Alternatively email [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk). Nomination forms must be with the NGA office by 6pm on Friday 14 January 2011.

**NGA Officer elections:** At the NGA Board meeting on 10 December 2010, the following were elected: Chair – Clare Collins; Vice-Chairs – Stephen Adamson, Doris Neville-Davies, Honorary Treasurer – Duncan Haworth; Honorary Secretary – Judith Bennett.

## **DfE AND OTHER INFORMATION**

### **1 Review of Key Stage 2 testing - Experiences of primary school governors requested**

We are considering our evidence to Lord Bew's review of Key Stage 2 testing. We are keen to collect members' views on the issues:

- how best to ensure schools are properly accountable to pupils, parents and the taxpayer for the achievement and progress of every child, on the basis of objective and accurate assessments;
- how to ensure parents have good-quality information on the progress of their children and the success of schools;
- how to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of perverse incentives, over-rehearsal and reduced focus on productive learning;
- how to ensure performance information is used and interpreted appropriately within the accountability system by other agencies, increasing transparency and preserving accountability to parents, pupils and the taxpayer while avoiding the risk of crude and narrow judgements being made.

We are particularly keen to hear from governors of schools that have successfully avoided excessive 'teaching to the test' without compromising the learning in Year 6. Any primary school governors, including headteachers, who are willing to share the good practice in their schools, should please contact [emma.knights@nga.org.uk](mailto:emma.knights@nga.org.uk) with your views and experiences.

### **2 Members' views wanted on the future role of Local Authorities in education \*\*\***

The NGA is involved in a number of high level discussions in Whitehall and Westminster on this crucial issue, which covers the wide range of matters that local authorities are currently involved with – such as school improvement, admissions, exclusions, special needs, transport and of course governor support services. If you have any information you would like NGA to consider and include in these discussions, please send an email with the subject title 'Local authorities & education' to: [emma.knights@nga.org.uk](mailto:emma.knights@nga.org.uk). Even if it is only a few lines long, please do get in contact if you have thoughts on this subject. Now is the time to make representations to the Department for Education and we very much want to gauge the range of experiences and views of our members.

### **3 Local Government Financial Settlement (LGFS), Pupil Premium and Dedicated Schools Grant**

On 13 December the LGFS was announced by the Secretary of State, who issued a letter to chairs of governors and headteachers laying out the settlement. In 2011–12 there will be £625m available for the Pupil Premium, amounting to £430 for any child eligible for FSM and for looked after children. Service children will receive a reduced Premium of £200, which is intended to focus on the additional pastoral care such pupils may need. In future the Premium will be extended to those pupils who have previously been eligible for FSM.

The DfE also announced the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Capital and Early Intervention Grant (EIG). For full details of the DSG and Pupil Premium allocations for 2011-12 go to the DfE website via this link: [DfE - School Funding Announcements 2011-12](#)

### **4 New Year Honours**

The following governors have been awarded MBEs in the New Year Honours: Melvyn Edward Butcher (Luton), Raymond Nichols (Kirklees), Graham Smallbone (Hertfordshire), Rodney Mackie Iven Thomas (Kent), Doreen Lilian Tozer (Plymouth – and a long standing member of NGA), Mollie White (Hampshire). Many congratulations to them all.

## CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

### 1 Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The Government has committed itself to raising children's achievement in reading, and intends to establish a phonics screening check for children in Year 1. This will be a short, light-touch screening check designed to confirm that children have grasped the basics of phonic decoding, and to identify those pupils who need extra help at an early stage, so that schools can provide support. The results of the screening check will provide valuable information to parents. The screening check will be part of the arrangements for the statutory assessment of children in respect of the first Key Stage. This consultation seeks views on proposals around the purpose, structure and administration of the screening check.

The consultation can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [year1phonics.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:year1phonics.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to Phil Elks, School Standards Group, DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DfE deadline 14 February 2011**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 25 January 2011**

*Also see [Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances: Consultation on a New Approach](#) (Closing Date: 15 February 2011). For details go to: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk).*

## FOR INFORMATION

### 1 Key meetings attended in December

**HEG** (Headteacher unions and the NGA) (30.11.10): The regular meeting to discuss education policy issues of interest to all. Discussions included the White Paper, Ofsted and the National Funding Formula.

**Bew Review** (2.12.10): Reviewing Key Stage 2 testing – NGA was called to present oral evidence to Lord Bew.

**LGA & NGA Conference** (8.12.10): The conference considered the implications of the White Paper on governance and local authority services.

**School Funding Implementation Group** (17.12.10): SFIG was given an update on the Local Government Finance Settlement.

*Other meetings and conferences included: National College Succession Planning Advisory Group (2.12.10); Lancashire Clerks' Conference (3.12.10); Education Forum (16.12.10); Partnerships for Schools (16.12.10), DfE Reducing Bureaucracy Sub-group (17.12.10).*

### 2 Incentives for associations to encourage schools into NGA membership

Did you know that, if half of an association's members join the NGA (as governing bodies), then the association itself does not have to pay any membership fee to NGA? NGA has now extended this principle so that, if just one quarter of an association's schools becomes members of the NGA, we will halve the association's fee for the following year. In addition, an association's members will also now be entitled to a £5 reduction on their school's NGA membership fee, which means that, instead of £60 for standard governing body membership, the school would pay NGA £55.

We are developing our new membership promotions leaflet. If you are interested in promoting NGA membership to your schools, please e-mail [Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk](mailto:Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk)

### 3 New editions of Guides available from NGA

New editions of all the NGA Guides, with updated information on legislation, are available and ordered copies are being sent out. These valued publications are purchased by over 50 local authorities as a credible source of information and guidance for governors. The publications are available at discounted rates for NGA members.

For further information, and to access the order form for the new NGA Guides, visit the NGA website: [NGA Guides](#)

### 4 Local Association websites

NGA is continually developing and improving our website and has introduced new regional pages. To provide useful information for NGA members, we have included a list of local associations, by region, that link through to local associations' websites. Please view the web page: [Local Association websites](#). If there are any changes you wish to make, please contact Pardeep Mattu, NGA Communications Manager, at: [Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk](mailto:Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk)

### 5 Regional stories needed

Do you have forthcoming meetings to promote or do you want to share success stories on governance or your local association? We now have a regional page available in our membership magazine, *Matters Arising*, to enable you to communicate to a wider audience. If you have any story ideas, please contact Pardeep Mattu, NGA Communications Manager, by email: [Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk](mailto:Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk)

### 6 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

Changes are being made to this distance-learning programme to fit with the 2010/11 edition of *Welcome to Governance*.

### 7 Teachers TV

Teachers' TV is now available exclusively online. Access all you wish to view by going to [www.teachers.tv](http://www.teachers.tv). TTV has a microsite on the NGA website: <http://www.nga.org.uk/ttv.aspx> Teachers TV has also produced a complementary CD *Training for Governors*, which will be distributed with every new edition of *Welcome to Governance* ordered.

### 8 NGA Membership Benefits

**Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits.** Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine, *Matters Arising*, sent to their home address, to have access to the members' only section of the NGA website and to have the e-newsletter sent direct to their email address. If you have not yet given us the names, addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please let us have the information as soon as possible. Without these details your association is not receiving its full membership benefits.

**Email Forum:** Have you joined the forum yet? *If you wish to be placed on the forum, email Pardeep Mattu: [Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk](mailto:Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk)*

### 9 Our address details \*\*\*

We have noticed that some of our members are still addressing post to our old office address. Please update your records to the following details:

National Governors' Association, Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY. Tel: 0121 237 2380, fax: 0121 233 1323.