Dear NLE,

On 1st October 2018, revised terms and conditions for the National Support School (NSS) bursary took effect and remained in place until further notice. We are now writing to update these terms and conditions.

This year, we are changing the payment structure of the bursary to bring it into line with both the National Audit Office's recommendation to pay grants in arrears; and ensure that we are focusing more NLE capacity on the schools that have been identified for a proactive offer of support from the Department. We have created a range of FAQs (attached) to explain the changes and we will review these arrangements again prior to the start of the 19/20 Academic Year.

Below are the terms and conditions for the FY19-20 NSS grant. They take effect immediately and remain valid until further notice.

The grant has two purposes:

1. **To compensate the NLE's school for the costs of the NLE's time and travel, or that of his/her nominated representative, for attendance at meetings relating to the improvement needs of a different school ("the supported school"), including the analysis of needs and planning of future improvement activity whether to be carried out by the NLE or any other party; and**

2. **To compensate the NLE's school for the costs of the NLE's time and travel to participate in continuing professional development relevant to the role of NLE**.

In respect of point 1 above:

a) The Teaching Schools Council, acting on behalf of the DfE, may ask you to prioritise schools which, at the time of the engagement, are below floor standards or coasting, as defined by the Department for Education (or are rated as requiring improvement by Ofsted where those classifications do not apply. Where this is the case, you will be funded per deployment, at a rate of £500 per day, up to a maximum of 18 days.

b) Where this is not the case, expenditure must only be incurred between 1 April 2019 and 31 August 2019 and shall not exceed £2,000. In addition, where the NLE's school is part of a Multi-Academy Trust, the supported school must be outside of that Multi-Academy Trust; and you must seek the agreement of your regional Teaching Schools Council representative that you are not required to prioritise supporting a school as described in point a) above. A claim for this funding must be made to the Department in September 2019, including details of the costs incurred as requested by the Department at that time.

c) We will review these arrangements prior to 1st September 2019 in light of the Secretary of State's confirmation that 'Requires Improvement' will be the sole trigger for an offer of support to schools in Academic Year 19/20, and you should refer to any subsequent guidance that the Department issues on supporting schools in Academic Year 19/20 prior to incurring costs relating to in Academic Year 19/20.

In respect of point 2 above:

d) expenditure shall not exceed £1,000 and relate exclusively to Continuing Professional Development as identified by the department as necessary to deliver school improvement support in Academic Year 19/20.

In respect of points 1 and 2 above:

e) All payments will be dependent on you having completed the necessary assurance relating to Departmental grants made in Financial Year 18/19; and carry forwards of Grants made in previous Financial Years shall not be permitted.

If you have questions or queries about these changes please contact your regional TSC representative or alternatively email us at school.improvement@education.gov.uk.

Regards,
School Improvement team

Department
for Education