

## Regional Update: December 2020 (#6 2020/21)

### Introduction

Welcome to the sixth Lancashire and West Yorkshire TSC update of 2020/21.

This newsletter provides essential system leader news, links and updates that have been issued recently.

Previous newsletters, attachments and other resources can be accessed at <https://greateheightstrust.org.uk/lwytsc>.

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### *In this newsletter:*

#### **School Improvement and System Leadership:**

- **Pupil Assessment 2021 – Extra Measures**
- **New Funding for Schools/Colleges during Pandemic**
- **Ofsted: Plans from January 2021**
- **Bradford (LWY10) TSH update**
- **EEF: Improving Secondary Science**
- **Research – ‘Breaking Down Complex Writing Tasks’**
- **Ofsted Annual Report 2019/20**

#### **Professional and Leadership Development:**

- **LWY Maths Hubs**
- **Initial Teacher Training, Recruitment & Retention & ECF:**
- **Initial Teacher Training, DfE revisiting the market sector**
- **Recognition of Overseas Teaching Qualifications**

#### **National Leaders of Governance:**

- **NLG links with Forum Strategy**
- **DfE School Governance Update, December 2020**

Attachments: Maths Hub Newsletter

## HEADLINES

### Extra Measures to Support Students Ahead of Next Summer's Exams



Students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to improve fairness and prevent disruption. [These measures affecting both primary and secondary phase statutory pupil assessments](#) were announced by the DfE/Education Secretary Gavin Williamson yesterday.

The BBC leads on the “extra measures to ‘boost fairness and support students’ to be used for next summer's GCSE and A-level exams in England. More generous grading, advance notice of exam topics and additional papers are promised by the Department for Education to make up for the disruption faced by students during the pandemic. Those who cannot sit exams due to self-isolation rules will still get a grade.”

### New Funding to Support Schools and Colleges during Covid Pandemic

Schools and colleges facing the greatest combined staffing and funding pressures will be able to claim via a new short-term [Covid workforce fund](#) as part of the government's national priority of keeping education settings open.

The Department for Education has announced (27/11/20) the fund which will be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 and cover the current half-term, with detailed guidance due to be published shortly. It is designed for schools and colleges facing significant funding pressure and will cover the costs of high levels of staff absences over a minimum threshold, to help ensure schools and colleges can remain open. This new package of funding is in addition to the support given to schools in the summer to cover exceptional Covid-related costs. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

“Keeping schools and colleges open is a national priority, which is why I am launching the Covid workforce fund, to support schools and colleges facing significant budget pressures and staff absences. I know how hard school and college staff and leaders have worked over the past nine months, and I want to once again thank everyone working in education for going above and beyond while we continue to deal with the extra pressures caused by the pandemic.”

Press release

### **New funding to support schools and colleges during Covid pandemic**

Covid workforce fund to support with costs of staff absences in schools and colleges

## Ofsted: Plans from January 2021

Ofsted have now released plans for a phased return to inspection from January 2021.

Further details are below, but **in summary:**

### **From January 2021:**

- Schools – assurance visits/monitoring inspections to resume.
- Social care – Focused Visits to resume
- SEND – interim visits with CQC to resume

### **From April 2021:**

- Schools – routine inspections to resume in summer term
- Social care – short/full judgement inspections to resume

Ofsted are not planning to carry out graded inspections of education or social care providers before the summer term.

### **Maintained Schools and Academies:**

From January, Ofsted will resume monitoring inspections of schools judged inadequate at their previous inspection and some schools graded as requires improvement. These will not result in a grade.

Emergency inspections of schools will continue as they have done throughout the pandemic, in response to any serious concerns raised with Ofsted.

Routine inspections, which result in a school being awarded a new grade or being confirmed in its current grade, will resume in the summer term.

### **Further Education and Skills:**

From January, Ofsted will resume monitoring visits to providers that would be monitored in normal times – in particular new providers and those graded requires improvement and inadequate.

Colleges that do not receive a monitoring visit may receive support and assurance visits. Safeguarding visits will continue in response to concerns raised about providers.

Full graded inspections will resume in the summer term.

Interim education visits to prisons will start in January, to support and challenge prisons to return to full programmes of education and skills activities following COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Early Years:**

Ofsted will carry out a programme of assurance inspections from the start of the spring term. These inspections will confirm whether or not a provider is meeting the early years foundation stage (EYFS) requirements.

Assurance inspections will be proportionate and risk-based. Providers will be prioritised based on the length of time since their last inspection, and any other relevant information.

Routine graded inspections will resume in the summer term of 2021.

### **Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):**

From January Ofsted will resume joint interim visits with the Care Quality Commission. These visits aim to support improvement and will not result in a published letter or graded judgement.

## School Improvement and System Leadership

### Teaching School Hub Update: LWY10 – Bradford (designated autumn 2019)

Bradford Teaching School Hub, led by Copthorne Primary School and part of Exceed Academies Trust, has developed its vision, strategy and priorities for the delivery of teacher development support in 2020-21. In summary:

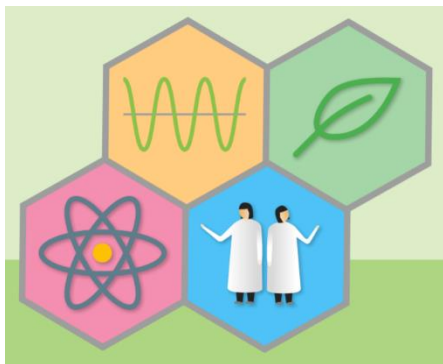
*“Bradford Teaching School Hub’s core functions support schools and trusts to invest in their workforce to grow, recruit, develop and retain the very best teachers, support staff and leaders. We will achieve this through a place-based approach to signposting and delivering high-quality progressive teacher development programmes that complement the internal support provided by schools and trusts. Our vision acknowledges teacher and leadership development are two of the most important forms of school improvement. We will achieve this by enhancing partnership working with schools, trusts and high-quality providers; improving the communication of opportunities with the workforce; introducing new professional learning opportunities; supporting teachers and leaders to make informed choices when selecting CPD and support; and ensuring that no school is left behind.”*

Colleagues are invited to [download the Hub’s position statement for 2020-21](#).

The Hub’s online portal provides schools and trusts with a tool to help them identify support to help them address their priorities. The portal is available here: <https://www.teachingschoolhub.co.uk>.

The Hub’s app can be downloaded here: <https://www.teachingschoolhub.co.uk/app>.

## EEF: Improving Secondary Science



### Improving Secondary Science

The attainment gap in science may not be as well-documented as the gap in English and maths, but it is just as pervasive. The EEF's research has shown that disadvantaged pupils start to fall behind in science in Key Stage 1; the gap only gets wider throughout primary and secondary school and on to A-level.

[Seven recommendations for improving science in secondary schools.](#)

[Summary of recommendations poster.](#)

EEF Blog: [Tackling Misconceptions in Science by Using Good Diagnostic Assessment.](#)

Introducing [new resources for tackling scientific misconceptions.](#)

## Research – 'Breaking Down Complex Writing Tasks'

**Bradford Research School:** [Breaking Down Complex Writing Tasks Part 3: Planning](#)

Recommendation 4 of the EEF's Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools is 'Break down complex writing tasks,' and it acknowledges that even seemingly simple writing tasks can be more complex than we at first imagine. Because writing is central to so many subjects, we must try to understand just what makes writing so hard. Over a series of blogs, Bradford Research School explores how to address each of these elements. This time they look at planning.

Catch up on the previous blogs in the series:

- [Breaking Down Complex Writing Tasks Part 1: Spelling](#)
- [Breaking Down Complex Writing Tasks Part 2: Sentence Construction](#)

## HMCI Ofsted Annual Report and linked Research Reports

[Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman's annual report to Parliament](#) was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

With reference to:

- ['Fight or flight? How "stuck" schools are overcoming isolation'](#) - Ofsted, January 2020
- ['Impact of school closures on the attainment gap: rapid evidence assessment'](#) - EEF, June 2020
- ['Children doing 2.5 hours' schoolwork a day on average'](#) - University College London Institute of Education, June 2020
- ['Coronavirus and homeschooling in Great Britain: April to June 2020'](#) - Office for National Statistics, July 2020

## Professional and Leadership Development:

### LWY Maths Hubs

Maths Hubs continue to offer collaborative maths CPD this year, focused on supporting schools as they adapt teaching to meet pupils' needs during the ongoing pandemic. Maths Hubs go beyond this too, in supporting the development of mechanisms for sustained change. The attached example shows a pathway for primary schools.

## Initial Teacher Training, Recruitment & Retention

### Initial Teacher Training, DfE revisiting the market sector

**In the press:**

Schools Week 30/11/20: [DfE to reboot ITT market review](#)

"The DfE will revive its review of the initial teacher training market, aiming to tackle the "overly complex" nature of the sector"

Originally launched last year as part of the teacher recruitment and retention strategy, the review was tasked with reducing duplication, addressing poor-quality providers and creating a "more efficient and effective system".

## Recognition of Overseas Teaching Qualifications from 1 January 2021

Now the UK has left the EU, guidance has been published that explains how teachers who qualified in the EEA and Switzerland can apply for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), detailing the changes that will apply from 1 January 2021. You can find this at [Applying for qualified teacher status \(QTS\) from 1 January 2021.](#)

These teachers will still be able to apply for QTS in England, but the process is changing. A Letter of Professional Standing is required from the organisation responsible for regulating teachers in their country of qualification. There is more information about this on the link above.

Individuals who qualified in England and are applying for recognition in the EU from 1 January 2021 should check the latest arrangements with the organisation responsible for regulating teachers in the country they want to teach in.

## National Leaders of Governance

### Governance – Forum Strategy Updates

Ongoing information for Chairs, trust boards, and governors as follows:

<https://forumstrategy.org/category/blog/articles/>

Recent Forum Strategy Posts:

- [CEO Strategy Group 2 -Remote learning and working](#)
- [The work of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership 2nd December 8.45am](#)
- [To merge or not to merge; just ask yourself the right questions first](#)
- [A new narrative for academy trusts – one year on, what happens next?](#)
- [Being The CEO – the power of time management](#)

### DfE School Governance Update, December 2020

The [December 2020 edition of the DfE's School Governance Update](#) has now been published.

This edition covers both maintained schools and academy trusts – the articles are listed below for information:

1. Governing and trust boards role and meetings during coronavirus (COVID-19)
2. (Academy trusts only): View my financial insights (VMFI) tool update is now live and available to academy trustees
3. Diverse Governance Webcast Series
4. Efficiency savings with Teaching Vacancies services
5. 'Something's Not Right' Home Office campaign
6. Get funding and support to set up a digital education platform
7. Information about the transition from the European Union for schools and academy trusts



The [Teaching School Council \(TSC\)](#) is a national body representing all Teaching Schools in England. The Council is made up of membership with either a national or regional remit, who direct or shape the work of Teaching Schools through discussion with government ministers and senior officials. The Teaching Schools Council believes that **every child is entitled to be in a great school.**