

From: LEADERS, System
Sent: 03 March 2021 15:53
Subject: [DfE] System Leaders Newsletter - March 2021

Attachments: [National Tutoring Programme - information for NLEs](#) [TS Closure of programme](#)

System Leaders Newsletter

March 2021

Coronavirus

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline

0800 046 8687

8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

On 22 February, a 4-step plan to ease lockdown in England was announced by the Prime Minister: [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#), providing a roadmap out of the current lockdown in England and setting out how the government will continue to protect and support citizens across the UK, starting with the return of pupils to the classroom on 8 March, backed by a robust testing programme for secondary schools, college students and all staff.

To support children and young people with their missed learning and development due to the pandemic, we announced a [new £700 million recovery package for England](#) on 24 February. Please see more on this in the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) section below.

System news

- Teaching School Hubs (TSH) and Teaching Schools (TS)
 - New TSH announced
 - TS closure
- National Leaders of Education (NLE)
 - School to School Support Plans
 - Sign up for National Tutoring Programme webinar: 75% subsidy
 - Refer schools to a behaviour hub
- Update from Richard Gill, Chair of the Teaching Schools Council (TSC)
- National leaders of governance
 - NLG grant 2021
 - NLG reform update
 - Deployment Portal
 - Portal Access

Other information

- Get help with remote education
- Get funding and support to set up a digital education platform
- ECF Reforms: Changes to statutory induction
- 2020 Headteachers' Standards
- Recruiting teachers from overseas under the new immigration system
- Recognition of teaching qualifications in the UK-EU from 1 January 2021
- Admission of Overseas National Pupils from January 2021

Teaching School Hubs and Teaching Schools

New Teaching School Hubs (TSH) announced

We recently confirmed that 87 schools have been selected as new [TSHs](#), forming centres of excellence for teacher and leadership training and development, focusing mainly on the Department's 'golden thread' of Initial Teacher Training (ITT), the Early Career Framework (ECF) and National Professional Qualifications (NPQs). An overview of the TSH role is available on [gov.uk](#) and you can locate your nearest TSH [here](#).

Teaching Schools (TS) closure

We wrote to you in February 2020 confirming that in view of our system leadership reforms and the intention to designate new TSH, the current TS programme would come to an end on 31 August 2021. Consequently, the final payment of your TS core grant will be made by May 2021.

We appreciate that you will now be considering what this means for your TS and have set out (attached) the key actions you will need to take in view of the closure of the programme. We want to reiterate our thanks for your commitment to the TS programme over many years and look forward to continuing to work with you on other DfE programmes.

National Leaders of Education

School to School Support

Many of you have been involved in helping to deliver the [STSS COVID-19 Recovery Offer](#) in addition to tackling challenges in your own schools. Others of you will have not been formally involved in the Recovery Offer but have offered support in other ways. We are extremely grateful for all your help.

We continue to deliver support to the most vulnerable schools through the Recovery Offer and your local [Teaching School Council representative](#) may get in contact with you, should you be required to provide support.

NLEs will once again be at the centre of our plans for DfE support programmes in the 2021/22 Academic Year to deliver critical support to schools. We will be setting out our plans for 2021/22 shortly and will be contacting you to understand what capacity you will have to deliver NLE support during these exceptional times. We hope that many of you will be able to continue in your role as an NLE.

Sign up for National Tutoring Programme webinar: 75% subsidy

All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the National Tutoring Programme to support pupils who need extra help. **NLEs can [sign up](#) for an information webinar on 17 March, at 16:00**, to hear from Tuition Partner organisations and learn more about the subsidy programme and how you can support schools in your role as an NLE to consider the benefits of NTP and sign up.

[Search for approved NTP Tuition Partners](#) through the website. Schools can then enquire directly with providers to discuss their individual requirements. Online tutoring can be provided to pupils at home or in school [during lockdown](#), and tutoring can also be booked in for delivery when schools are fully reopened.

This includes specialist provision for supporting students with SEND, as 26 of our 33 providers can support students with SEND, including 17 providers who can support students in special school settings. Please see attachment on NTP for further details. More detailed information is available on the [NTP website](#).

Refer schools to a Behaviour Hub

Never has it been more important for schools to create a calm, safe and orderly environment. The behaviour hubs programme can help support the successful return to school by providing expert help for schools to improve their behaviour cultures.

If you are working with schools where behaviour is identified as a concern, please complete the Behaviour Audit tool (Annex B of the STSS COVID-19 recovery offer guidance for system leaders) and follow the referral steps outlined. Schools rated 'requires improvement' by Ofsted to improve behaviour should self-refer through our [online application](#).

For more information, visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or email behaviour.hubs@education.gov.uk.

Update from Richard Gill, Chair of the Teaching Schools Council (TSC)

I am reminded of the Roy Bennett quote stating, 'the past is a place of reference, not a place of residence'. Our work as educators has been very different over the last 11 months, and we have faced challenges and barriers along the way. But I do feel that amongst the grief and sadness that has impacted on so many families, we can move forwards and help develop an even better future for our children, our families and for the communities we serve.

Children are, of course, at the heart of everything we do. What we have experienced, since last March, is tremendous collegiality in which historic barriers have fallen seeing some schools working with new partners; with schools which they might not have previously engaged, as the sector has formed closer ties in tackling the challenges we have faced, together. Long may this last, through new formal and informal relationships.

The recovery offer, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, has been critical for many schools. This has been a support offer that has been open to all, regardless of a school's previous inspection outcome. This has proved to be an offer that has enabled more schools to remain open; this is an offer that has enabled more schools to be fully staffed with competent and confident leaders and this is an offer that has enabled more schools easier access to the best support available to them locally. Thank you to all the NLEs and CEOs who have supported this work and to all the recipient schools who have engaged, welcomed, and valued what is available.

Congratulations to the 81 newly designated teaching school hubs which were recently announced. They will now join the 6 test and learn hubs to form a national network of excellence supporting teacher development. The Teaching Schools Council is very much looking forward to working with all hubs and, indeed, welcoming some of their leaders on to a new reformed TSC that will take us forwards with this exciting policy development.

Roy Bennett went on to say, 'the past is a place of learning, not a place of living'. We have all learned so much from the experiences we have lived that sets the system up well for an exciting future. Thank you for all you do to support your communities and each others.

Sincerely,
Richard Gill, CBE
Chair, TSC

Get in touch with your local [TSC representative](#)

National leaders of governance

NLG Grant 2021

We have issued Financial Year (FY) 20-21 grant offer letters to all schools who have completed and returned their FY 19-20 grant assurance documentation.

If your school has not received its grant offer letter, please check your school has returned its grant assurance forms for FY19-20. Without this assurance, we are unable to issue a grant offer letter for FY 20-21. Schools should contact governors.mailbox@education.gov.uk with any queries.

The grant claims are now live within the online portal, and schools can submit claims relating to FY20-21.

NLG reform update

The National Leaders of Governance external advisory group made [a series of recommendations](#), published on 20 September. These recommendations recognise the expertise and professionalism required to deliver high-quality governance support and underpin the NLG Reforms.

On Tuesday, 19 January, we published the Invitation to Tender in [Contracts Finder](#). The successful supplier will deliver recruitment, assessment, training, deployment and quality assurance of NLGs on behalf of the DfE. We will write to you again with updates over the coming months.

Deployment Portal

The [deployment portal](#) is now available for the academic year 20/21. Please ensure details of all NLG deployment activity since Sept 2020 is added to the portal, including continuations of previous deployments. As a reminder, grant claims for governor training and development will only be approved where a deployment in the current financial year (April 2020-March 2021) has been recorded – this could be in either the AY1920 or AY2021 portal.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay.

Portal Access

If you encounter any difficulties in either changing your email address or updating a password, please contact us at governors.mailbox@education.gov.uk.

Other information

Get help with remote education

Our [Get Help with Remote Education](#) page provides a one-stop-shop for teachers and leaders, signposting the support package available from the Department. This includes:

- Support to access technology such as [devices](#), [connectivity](#) and [digital education platforms](#)
- Information on accessing the [Demonstrator network](#) of schools and colleges who are on hand to offer advice, guidance and training in the effective use of technology and remote education practice, including digital platforms such as Google and Microsoft, and how best devices can be embedded.
- Support on use of assistive technology, including those available through software such as Microsoft and Google, to ensure inclusive remote education provision [SEND Support Hub - National Star](#)
- Support for [recovery and catch up](#).

Get funding and support to set up a digital education platform

The Department for Education has extended its [digital education platform](#) programme for a further 12-months. This means that state-funded schools in England will still have the chance to apply for government-funded support to get set up on a digital platform for remote learning until 22 March 2022. They can choose from either Google Suite for Education or Microsoft Office 365 Education.

With over 7,000 schools applying to the programme and applications increasing daily, it's important that the programme stays open to give other schools the opportunity to apply. [Find out more about the programme](#) and [read how one school is making the most of their remote education platform](#).

ECF Reforms: Changes to statutory induction

In September 2021, the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms will be rolled out nationally.

To enable this, the Department for Education intends to make changes to statutory induction arrangements. These changes will ensure that all early career teachers undergoing statutory induction will be entitled to a two-year programme of training and support, underpinned by the ECF.

We will be publishing guidance to help schools prepare for these changes in time for national roll-out in the Spring. More information about the intended changes can be found on [gov.uk](#).

If you would like to receive direct updates from the Department on the ECF reforms, please fill in this [form](#).

2020 Headteachers' Standards

[Headteachers' Standards guidance](#) now replaces the 2015 National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers.

The new Standards mark a shift from the 'aspirational' nature of the 2015 standards to show what 'good' looks like. They should be used to:

- Shape headteachers' own practice and professional development, within and beyond the school
- Support the recruitment and appointment of headteachers
- Provide a framework for training middle and senior leaders aspiring to headship

They cover the full range of activities/responsibilities that a headteacher can undertake and are applicable to those with senior leadership roles in schools that carry many, but not all, of a headteacher's responsibilities.

Recruiting teachers from overseas under the new immigration system

The new points-based immigration system applies to teachers from overseas arriving in the UK from 1 January 2021. These teachers, including those from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, need to apply for a visa. **Schools may need to become visa sponsors if they want to recruit teachers who are not the UK or Irish nationals.**

EEA and Swiss nationals living in the UK by 31 December 2020 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 to continue living, working, and studying in the UK without applying through the points-based immigration system.

You can find more information by:

- Reading [guidance for schools about recruiting teachers from overseas](#)
- Watching a [DfE/Home Office webinar for schools about the points-based immigration system](#)

Recognition of teaching qualifications in the UK-EU from 1 January 2021

The UK has left the EU. The new points-based immigration system came into force in January:

Guidance for teachers qualified in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland who are applying for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS):

- Teachers from these countries can still apply for QTS in England but will now need to provide a Letter of Professional Standing from the organisation responsible for regulating teachers in their country of qualification. There is more information at [QTS gov.uk](https://www.qts.gov.uk).

Guidance for individuals who qualified in England and are applying for recognition in the EU:

- Suppose individuals have QTS or are training towards QTS and want to teach in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. In that case, they should speak to the organisation responsible for regulating teachers in that country to understand their approach to recognising English qualifications.
- They can contact the [single point of contact](#) for that country to find out how to get their qualification recognised, or seek advice from [UK NARIC](#) to determine which organisation they should contact.

Admission of Overseas National Pupils from January 2021

The new points-based immigration system came into force on 1 January 2021.

Schools must continue to offer a place to any foreign national child who resides in the UK. However, European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss children applying from abroad are now treated the same as any other foreign national child: they cannot normally enter the UK to study at a state funded school or 16-19 academy unless their parents already live in the UK.

Hong Kongers with British Nationals (Overseas) status is permitted to settle in the UK. If such families reside in the UK, their children are entitled to a school place. If the family resides overseas, their children are not entitled to enter the country to study at a state-funded school.

Independent schools can sponsor and admit foreign national children from overseas on study visas.

Guidance for schools can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).