

Lancashire Schools Forum

eNewsletter

• Issue 122 • June 2022 •

Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 122 of 'Fair Exchange?' a Pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.
This issue deals with matters to be considered at the summer term 2022 cycle of meetings.

Summer Term 2022 Cycle

Some Schools Forum and Working sessions may offer physical meetings in the summer term 2022, for the first time since the pandemic, although the opportunity to join the meetings using 'hybrid' technology may also be offered to enable colleagues to also join remotely. The working groups will consider issues in June 2022 and recommendations to be presented to the Schools Forum in July. Amongst the main items to be presented are:

- The Schools Budget Outturn position for 2021/22
- Information on the level of individual school balances at 31 March 2022 and about clawback arrangements for March 2023
- The Schools Forum Annual report for 2022/23
- Amendments to the Lancashire scheme for financing schools and responses on the proposals
- Initial information about possible de-delegations and formula changes for 2022/23
- An update of the Early Years Funding Agreement 2022/23
- Responses to an early years sector questionnaire about current challenges facing the
- Consideration of the High Needs Block commissioned places process for 2022/23



Forum Update

The draft minutes from the Forum meeting held on March 2022 are available on the Schools Forum website [here](#)

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING

Schools Budget 2022/23 (Income and Expenditure return)

Many thanks to all those maintained schools that have submitted their annual Income and Expenditure (I&E) return for 2022/23. The deadline for this return has now passed.

If you have not yet submitted your I&E return, please could you make every effort to do so as soon as you are able. The return can be submitted via the Schools Portal, located in the Forms > Finance > Income and Expenditure Form

A link is available here

["Income and Expenditure Form"](#)

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) 2021/22

Many thanks also to all maintained schools and their 2021/22 Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) submission. 100% of returns were received and the annual SFVS assurance statement has now been submitted to the DfE confirming that all submissions had been received by the LA.

Closure of Accounts 2021/22

As part of the financial year-end closure of County Council accounts for 2021/22, all school accounts for were closed in accordance with the County Council closure timetable. Any adjustments that were necessary due to the Oracle issues/downtime around year should now have been applied in the new financial year.

The County Council would like to say a big thank you all schools for their considerable efforts in closing the 2021/22 accounts.



WHAT IS HAPPENING NATIONALLY?

Changes to the Schools Financial Benchmarking front page

The DfE have improved the front page of the Schools Financial Benchmarking site to ensure that users can more quickly and easily access parts of the site that are useful to them. Now, after searching for your school's front page you will also find a 'Quick Comparison' and your school's 'Self Assessment Dashboard' on the very first page you visit.

Additionally, DfE have added a 'Next Steps' section to help Schools Business Professionals, and others, access additional resources that will help them have an impact in their school.

The Schools Financial Benchmarking site is available [here](#).



QUESTIONS?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Paul Bonser, Forum Clerk, 01772 531815, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk