



<http://oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk>

2nd May 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We have now booked speakers for our next two open meetings. The speaker on the evening of Monday June 11th will be **Dr Tony Eaude**, who is eminently well qualified to talk on the topic

Going beyond the data:

Exploring what Governors need to know about Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

There are further details on the flyer that accompanies this letter.

On the morning of Saturday September 29th from 10.00 am we will hold our Autumn Open Meeting when the main topic will be:

Who Governs Our Schools? Trends, Tensions and Opportunities

The speaker will be **Tony Breslin FRSA**, the author of a report of the same name published in September 2017. We anticipate a very interesting discussion. So please note these dates and also feel free to advertise the meetings to other colleagues in your schools. But do remember that although these meetings are free we do require you to book your place by email to Judith Bennett judith.bennetts@outlook.com.

When I wrote to you in February I mentioned that the pay cap was starting to be eased. The support staff national agreement has now been finalised on a pay deal which includes maintained and (most) academy school support staff. The agreement is for a two-year pay increase, payable from 1 April 2018. The majority of employees – those on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) salaries starting at £19,430 per annum – will receive an uplift of 2 per cent on 1 April 2018 and a further 2 per cent on 1 April 2019, with those on lower salaries receiving higher increases. There are also further employers' pension contribution increases looming next year and who knows at what level of increase the Teachers' pay settlement will be agreed? Clearly the need to lobby Government for fully funded pay rises is now imperative.

So Headteachers, will you please complete the anonymous WorthLess? survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EducationCommitteeSurveyMay2018>

and other Governors please confirm that your school has participated; the number of schools that respond is really important or the politicians will, by default, assume those that do not respond are not sufficiently concerned about their funding. Governors please also consider responding to either or both of the House of Commons Select Committee enquiries about School Funding and Support for Children and Young People with Disabilities.

The disparity between Oxfordshire's High Needs budget allocation and those of many other local authorities is deplorable, and those in mainstream as well as Special schools should remember funding to support SEN is from the High Needs block. So much for a fair and transparent national funding formula!

I also mentioned the General Data Protection Regulations, which come into force at the end of May 2018, and the associated cost of appointing an independent Data Protection Officer. I would have to say that the level of support from OCC for maintained schools has been disappointing. We have recently posted some information about GDPR on our own website which may help Governors understand the implications for changing the school culture around data handling. <http://oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk/what-we-do/oga-blog-2/>. Do please let us know if you find our site helpful on this or any other topic.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 11th June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carole Thomson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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