



## Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome to this week's newsletter.

Summer weather has arrived at last, and the end of another academic year is in sight. Our training schedule is drawing to a close, there is just one more session. Since September we have delivered 75 courses with an average attendance of 22 governors. Thank you for your hard work and commitment. Don't forget that the Buyback closes at the end of this month, please do subscribe to the training programme for next year and we look forward to seeing you, albeit virtually.



**Tim Brock**  
Lead Officer for  
Governance



**Helen Tate**  
Governor Support  
Officer



**Ruth Pangu**  
Clerk to Governors  
Team Lead

### Contact us

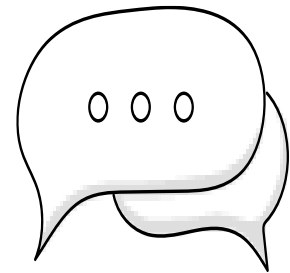
For **governance** queries  
email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
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In the run up to next week's election, the DfE has restricted its communications in accordance with normal practice and so we have no updates from them in this issue. Instead, we are beginning to look ahead to the new academic year. Some forward planning now will help to ensure the busy start in September will go as smoothly as possible.

## DfE and national updates

### National Governance Association (NGA) report "Growing Good Governance"

The NGA has published a new report regarding the state of governance practice based on an analysis of external reviews of governance (ERG). The report indicates current effective and improving practice with an emphasis on moving forward with proactive and strategic governance and the essential role of skilled professionals on boards.



Members can access the report through the following link;  
[External reviews: growing good governance | National Governance Association \(nga.org.uk\)](https://www.nga.org.uk/external-reviews-growing-good-governance)

Based on the findings, Growing Good Governance ends by proposing the following recommendations;

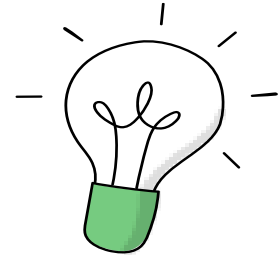
- Prioritise strategic planning
- Strengthen governance structures processes
- High-quality governance support
- Invest in leadership development
- Review the way the board undertakes its core accountability function
- Enhance communication and collaboration
- Address capacity challenges

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### Is your school's defibrillator registered on The Circuit?

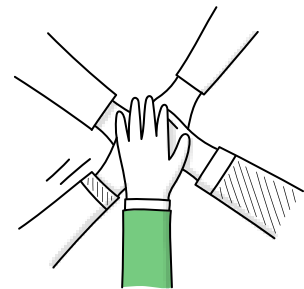
Just under half of the 22,000 schools' defibrillators are registered on the national defibrillator network. This means that the ambulance service cannot see them to direct people to them in an emergency. Please check [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk) to see if your school's defibrillator is registered so that it can be accessed if required. Then go to [The Circuit](#) to register it if appropriate.



## Oxfordshire updates

### The Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business 2024-25

The Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business for the next academic year is being finalised and will be uploaded to the Governor Services page and GovernorHub as soon as it is completed.



### Safeguarding self-assessment audit dates

The Section 175/157 safeguarding self-assessment for the academic year 2023/24 will open on 16<sup>th</sup> July and close on 29<sup>th</sup> November, when it must be signed off by Governors.



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## Buyback of traded services to schools (including Governor Services) closes on 30<sup>th</sup> June

Buyback of traded services for 2024/25 will close on Sunday. Please ensure your school office has signed up for the services your Board requires. These include **Governor Services training**, expressing an interest in the **Clerking Service** and subscription to **GovernorHub**, the **NGA** and **OGA**.

We are offering membership of the National Governance Association (NGA) at a reduced rate to schools in Oxfordshire.

**The Oxfordshire Governor Services advice line and resources** on the Schools website remain **free** to all to access.

OCC Clerking  
Service

OCC Governor  
Services Training



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## Clerks to Governors

The Clerking Service is continuing the recruitment drive to onboard new clerks to meet demand from school governing boards across Oxfordshire. Please ask your schools to support this drive by promoting the vacancy on the Oxfordshire County Council jobs page at [Clerk to Governing Board - OCC614079 Job Details | Shared Services Partnership \(newjob.org.uk\)](#) to staff and parents as it is a flexible position that can easily fit around other commitments. This link is likely to close shortly due to EPS (Education Personnel Services) replacing the jobs board with a new recruitment system. However, for an informal chat, the Clerk to Governors Team Lead can be contacted at [Ruth.Pangu@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ruth.Pangu@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) Thank you.



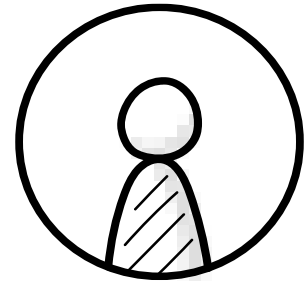
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### Oxfordshire Governors' Association – Supporting the wellbeing of your headteacher

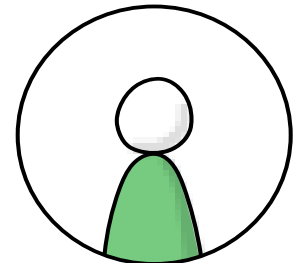
All Governors and Trustees are invited to attend an OGA event on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 7pm (with refreshments from 6.30pm) at Church House, Kidlington, OX5 1GF for a presentation on Governors' responsibilities and suggested strategies. To book a place, please email [Judith.bennetts@outlook.com](mailto:Judith.bennetts@outlook.com)



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### Headteacher Appraisals 2024-25

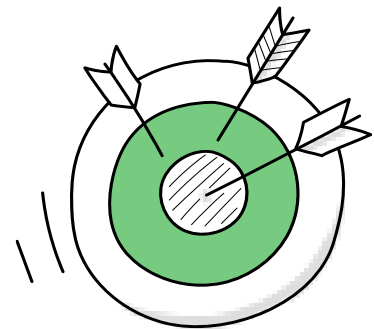
Maintained school boards appraise their headteacher in the Autumn term. For more information, including the external adviser service available from the OCC School Improvement Team, please go to [Headteacher Appraisals 2024-25](#)



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### Oxfordshire Healthy & Active Young People Conference

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 9am – 4.30pm at Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Banbury. Hear from Key partners about the current Health and Wellbeing, Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity landscape, with key-notes and workshops designed to inform, support and provide guidance. Early Bird booking now open until 31<sup>st</sup> July costing £100 per person. If you would like to book a place, please follow this link; [Oxfordshire Healthy & Active Young People Conference | Oxfordshire | Education Services](#)



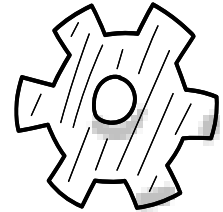
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## Governor Services Training

### Summer term training programme

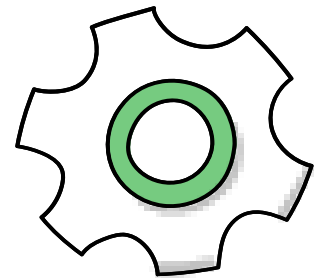
The final training for Governors for this academic year is on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm – 8.30pm; Armed Forces' Children: the board's role, a free network meeting. Book your place on GovernorHub in the usual way, or contact us by email for assistance (details below).



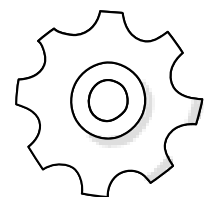
### Autumn term training programme

The training programme for Governors for the Autumn Term of 2024 has been finalised. Two Headteacher Appraisal Process courses on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> November have already been added to GovernorHub for Governors to book places.

Updated Governor Services training information for the new academic year will be available after the end of the summer term here; [Find out more](#)



Training can be booked directly through [GovernorHub](#) for all maintained schools in Oxfordshire. Log into your account and click on the 'Oxfordshire Governor Services Training' tab. If your school subscribes to the Governor Services training package, there will be no additional charge. All other bookings will be charged on a [pay as you use](#) basis.



For schools with no access to GovernorHub, bookings can be made by email to [governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk) You must provide a **name** and **email address** so that we can add your booking to our system and send you the joining link.

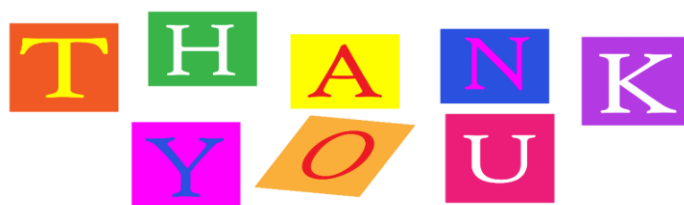
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### Charging for training

Please do check whether your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package **before booking**. Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost. For governors at schools that do not currently subscribe, there is a charge to attend and schools will be invoiced after the event. Please see the [Pay as You Go rates](#)

Any free briefings or events are clearly indicated.



*...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire*

With very best wishes from

**The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth**

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