



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello

On Monday, the OCC buyback of traded services for the next academic year 25/26 opens, so whilst you are discussing your budget for next year, please consider the services we offer to support your board, including GovernorHub, the Clerking Service and our Training programmes.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. We love to hear from you.

Zaheer Ahmed
Interim Assistant
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Contact us

For **governance** queries
email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

National Updates

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

Wireless network standards for schools and colleges – guidance has been updated on how to meet the latest wireless network standards and the associated technical requirements. Extra information has been added on how to ensure a fully functional signal from a wireless network.



[Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Great British Energy to cut bills for hospitals and schools

Hundreds of schools across the UK will benefit from new rooftop solar power and renewable schemes to save money on their energy bills, thanks to a total £200 million investment from the UK government and Great British Energy.

The support will target schools with buildings that are able to accommodate solar panels in areas of England most in need. As part of this, government will select the schools which will be primarily clustered in areas of deprivation in the North East, West Midlands and North West, as well as at least 10 schools in each region.

In England around £80 million in funding will support around 200 schools, to install rooftop solar panels, with potential to sell leftover energy back to the grid. The first panels are expected to be in schools by the end of summer 2025, saving schools money for the next academic year. [Great British Energy to cut bills for hospitals and schools - GOV.UK](#)

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Pupil Premium

'Pupil premium: overview' has been updated to include the per pupil rates and payment dates information for the 2025 to 2026 financial year.

[Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#)



Young people to benefit from creative education boost – DfE announcement

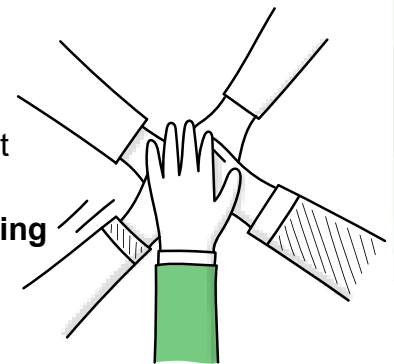
Young people across the country will have better access to arts education, creative activities, and skills in AI and technology as part of new plans by the Education Secretary. These include establishing a National Centre for Arts and Music Education, an Enrichment Framework for extra-curricular activities, and a Digital, AI and Technology Task Group to advise on preparing youth for future jobs.

[Young people to benefit from creative education boost - GOV.UK](#)

Oxfordshire Updates

Traded Services buyback opens 24th March 2024 – action required

The release of our range of traded service subscriptions for the next academic year will open on **Monday 24th March**. This includes **GovernorHub, the Clerking Service, Governor and Clerks' training programmes**.



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We are also for the second year offering **National Governance Association (NGA) membership** at reduced cost. We value the resources and advice given by the NGA and highly recommend schools become members.

All subscriptions can be found in the store at [Education Services](#). If you do not have access, your school office should be able to help.

Improved Subscription Process: Enhanced Transparency with Rollovers

We have listened to your feedback regarding our rollover process. Previously, subscriptions were automatically rolled over if no active purchases were made and we were not notified. To address your concerns, we have implemented a new Opt-Out feature. Schools can now specify which service subscriptions they wish to roll over and which they would like to opt out of.

Please discuss your subscriptions in your governor meetings and ensure your school office is aware of the subscriptions you wish to buy for the next academic year.

Maintained schools – drafting and approval of the 2025/26 budget

A reminder that maintained school boards should now be discussing the draft budget for the next academic year 25/25 in committee meetings in preparation for approval by the full governing board before the Chair completes the online sign off.

The deadline for maintained schools to submit a governing body approved budget to the LA via EFS (Education Financial Services); **Friday 2 May 2025**. (Where a **deficit budget** is foreseen, a draft budget must be submitted **before the end of March 2025**.) Maintained **Special Schools** are required to submit their budget by **Friday 9 May 2025**

[Budget and financial planning | Oxfordshire Schools](#)



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Powering Schools for the Future

The experts at Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools (ACES) can help your school lead the way in carbon reduction and energy bill savings.



**Action on
Carbon &
Energy in
Schools**

Funded by Oxfordshire County Council, through the ACES programme you can apply for an interest-free loan to finance the installation of energy saving measures including solar panels and LED lighting.

This service is completely free and is a simple but effective route for schools like yours to become more sustainable.

If you want to cut your energy bills and make your classrooms comfier for staff and students, visit the [Action on Carbon website](#).

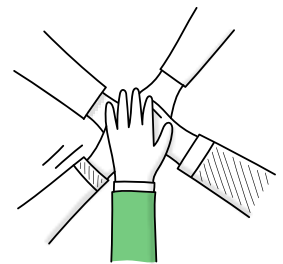
Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programmes

The Spring term training programmes for both governors and governance professionals are well underway and sessions are available to book on [GovernorHub](#) now.

More information on the training programmes can be found [here](#).

Governor and governance professionals' training sessions for the summer term and our next free governor briefing dates are now available to book on GovernorHub.



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Charging for training

Please check if your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package before booking.

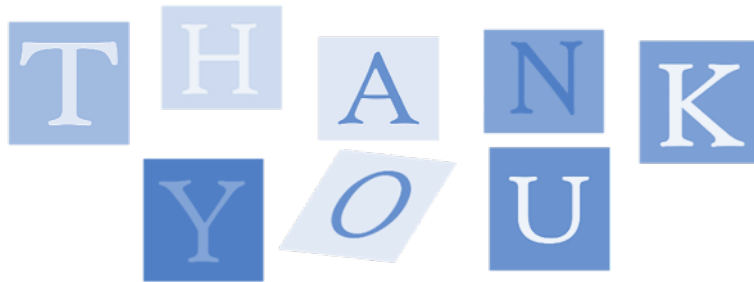
Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost.

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.

You can still sign up for the training package for this academic year. If your board would like to subscribe, get in touch and we can arrange it for you.



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next newsletter will be published on 4th April 2025.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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