



Schools Forum March 2024

Welcome to Issue 6, a pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

Summer Term 2024 Cycle

The working groups will consider issues in June 2024 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 2023/24
- Information on the level of individual school balances at 31 March 2024 and about clawback arrangements for March 2025
- The Schools Forum Annual report for 2023/24
- Initial information about possible de-delegations and formula changes for 2023/24
- An update of the Early Years Funding Agreement 2024/25
- Consideration of the High Needs Block commissioned places process for 2025/26

Schools Budget 2024/25 (Income and Expenditure return)

Many thanks to all those maintained schools that have submitted their annual Income and Expenditure (I&E) return for 2024/25. 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

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) 2023/24

Many thanks also to all maintained schools and their 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 2023/24

As part of the financial year-end closure of County Council accounts for 2023/24, all school accounts for were closed in accordance with the County Council closure timetable.

The County Council would like to say a big thank you all schools for their considerable efforts in closing the 2023/24 accounts.

What's Happening Locally

The Great Lancashire Debate 2024

Following the success of last year's competition, we are excited to announce the return of The Great Lancashire Debate for 2024 – the public speaking competition for all schools in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool!

At Lancashire County Council we are passionate about engaging young people in our democracy and hearing their ideas about how we can make Lancashire the best place to live. This year, the contest will be held in conjunction with the celebration of 50 years of Lancashire County Council. It will culminate with finals held during UK Parliament Week (18 – 22 November 2024).

For more information about the competition and how to enter, please visit our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/the-great-lancashire-debate/

Schools Forum Updates

Summer Term Schools Forum Dates

- Early Years Block Working Group 6 June 2024
- Needs Block Working Group 11 June 2024
- Schools Block Working Group 18 June 2024
- Lancashire Schools Forum 2 July 2024

Schools Forum Minutes

The draft minutes from the Forum meeting held on March 2024 are available on the Schools Forum website [here](#)

Schools Forum Membership 2024

A membership list can be found on the Forum [website](#).

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Millie Parkinson, Forum Officer, 01772 534844, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

