

GBA News - 28th April 2022



DE Launches School Governance Survey

The Department of Education is undertaking a survey on aspects of school governance to help identify how to better support Boards of Governors in their work to deliver outcomes for children and young people.

Anyone with involvement with Boards of Governors is encouraged to respond.

To complete the survey, please click [here](#).

The survey closes on 20th May 2022.



EA Announces Appointment of NISTR Tender Award

The Education Authority recently announced Version 1 as the official supplier for the development of a replacement solution for the Northern Ireland Substitute Teacher Register (NISTR). This project forms part of the EA's Education Information Solutions (EdIS) Programme.



The EdIS Programme is a change programme which represents a significant £750m investment that will support the learning experience for children and young people over the next 10 years.

EdIS will facilitate the transformation of learning and teaching through technology through a number of key projects, including NISTR, an on-line web based facility which provides a real-time booking system and a regional centralised database for all substitute teachers in Northern Ireland.

The new NISTR solution will be a 'mobile first' application, providing school users and substitute teachers access to NISTR on iOS and Android devices for the first time.

Key features for the new NISTR system, include:

- A streamlined registration process to facilitate teachers to upload CVs and create their substitute teacher profile with minimal text input.
- An interactive and user-friendly interface designed to negate booking of substitute teachers outside the system.
- A simplified process that facilitates substitute teacher bookings in seconds.
- An integrated instant messaging and voice chat to enhance communication between schools and substitute teachers.
- An improved intelligent search function to quickly match schools with the right substitute teachers.
- An improved data and filtering for teacher positions for example, Irish Medium, Special Educational Needs and Nurseries.
- A new reporting function providing schools, employing authorities and the Department of Education with accurate and live data to better understand the use of substitute teachers and provide targeted support where needed.
- A seamless integration with current and future payroll systems to increase the timeliness and accuracy of payment for substitute teachers.

- An increased help and support function, with the provision of user guides, a Frequently Asked Question section, a chatbot for common queries as well as bitesize training videos.

The EdIS programme also includes finance and payroll replacement solutions for Voluntary Grammar schools. The EA is collaborating closely with voluntary grammar representatives to ensure future needs are met.

For further information on the EA's EdIS programme, please click [here](#).

CCEA Student Support - Summer 2022

CCEA has developed a new graphic for students, highlighting their awarding and assessment arrangements for Summer 22. This is featured below and is available on CCEA's dedicated Student Area – **CCEA Supporting You Through #Summer22**. <https://ccea.org.uk/summer-2022/student-area>

The Student Area includes other support materials such as:

- Key facts
- Examples of Grading and Achieving the Higher Grade from Two Pathways
- Guidance on exam preparation

CCEA Supporting You Through #Summer22



Optional Unit Omissions

You can reduce the amount of exams you sit by choosing to omit one unit of assessment (identified by CCEA) from the vast majority of CCEA GCSE and A level qualifications as well as Occupational Studies.

Contingency Arrangements

Options are available if you miss an exam through no fault of your own e.g. illness.

Option 1. Missed Component Calculation

The amount of assessment that must normally be completed has been reduced for Summer 2022.

Option 2: Reserve Examination Series

Additional exams at the end of June for A2 and several GCSE qualifications.

Assessment Adaptations

Coursework/controlled assessment requirements have been reduced for several GCSE and A level subjects and GCSE students will receive a Maths Exam Aid with formula and equations.

For Entry Level and Vocational Qualifications, you can omit assessments up to a maximum of 50% of the qualification.

Together these arrangements will support you through disruption experienced from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grading

Outcomes will likely be higher than before the pandemic to take account of disruption – similar to England and Wales. Examiner judgement will be at the centre of the process and will also take into account the impact of COVID-19.

Your teachers and Examination Officers will be able to talk you through your options.

Further guidance and support materials on the arrangements for Summer 2022 are available at www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2022

NI Assembly - Voting to Commence 5th May

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved on 28th March 2022 to make way for the Elections, scheduled to take place next week on Thursday 5th May. Counting starts at 9am on Friday 6th May.

BBC news NI reports, "The final results could be known by the end of that day, but it's possible counting will pause overnight and start again on Saturday morning, with final results likely by Saturday afternoon."

Once the new assembly is elected it must meet within eight days and will be asked to nominate a first and deputy first minister.

Area Planning

As you will be aware, the GBA represents voluntary grammar schools on the various Area Planning Groups (Area Planning Steering Group, Area Planning Working Group and the Area Planning Local Groups). The next Local Group meetings are scheduled to take place on the 9th and 10th May 2022 to discuss issues across 11 Local Government District areas.

The GBA is interested in hearing from schools regarding challenges and opportunities in their area and the need for increased SEN provision including specialist units in mainstream post-primary schools.

Please [contact us](#) for an initial conversation.

Shared Education

The Department of Education recently published a report outlining the progress of Shared Education from April 2020 to March 2022 (click on graphic below for the full report).



The report reflects on the challenges of the pandemic, highlighting that a

significant number of schools have continued to be involved in Shared Education and new partnerships are evolving.

The Report also sets out a series of next steps designed to further develop and embed Shared Education across the education system and beyond over the coming years.

If you would like to discuss Shared Education projects, [please get in touch](#).

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

The GBA provides a free advertising service for our member schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page. There is also a link to our job listings on the Education Authority website in the job opportunities section.

As we are currently receiving a high volume of job requests, please use our [job template](#) and allow one working day for posts to be uploaded. This does not include bank holidays and weekends.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#).

Newsletter Subscription

Please feel free to forward our monthly updates to your school Governors. If any of your Governors would like to subscribe, please [send us](#) their email address.

If you wish to unsubscribe to these emails, please [let us know](#).

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Governing Bodies Association · Governing Bodies Association · Third Floor, 83-85 Victoria Street · Belfast, Bfs
BT1 4PB · United Kingdom

